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## INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

### BRIEFS

EGYPT-SUDAN COMMUNICATION LINKS--Communications in the Egyptian--Sudanese integration area are to improved, according to Mr Ahmed Taha Hussein Governor of Aswan and Chief of the subcommittee for integration between Egypt and the Sudan. L.E. 5,000,000 has been allocated for this purpose. It will be paid in equal shares between Egypt and the Sudan, Mr Hussein added. The plan will include building the Halfa Aswan road, which will be built in two stages. The first stage will be from Aswan to Abu Simbel, a distance of 300 kms. The second stage of the road building project from Abu Simble to Halfa, a distance of 200 Kms, will follow. Then the two roads will be linked by means of a maritime route on the Nile and the High Dam Lake. Commercial exchange will be speeded up and visits of citizens between the two countries will increase, the governor said. Two Nile boats, accommodating 500 passengers each, will be built for the Aswan--Halfa route. Instead of the present trips twice weekly between Aswan and Halfa, a daily boat trip will be operated the Governor said. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 14 Aug 79 p 3]

CSO: 4820

TARAKI INTERVIEW BY 'PRAVDA,' DISCUSSES NONALINEMENT

Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Sep 79 GF

["Text" of interview with Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan--PDPA-- and president of the Revolutionary Council, by PRAVDA correspondent Leonid Mironov--read by announcer; date and place not given]

[Text] QUESTION: What is the role of the nonalined movement in the struggle of the world's people against imperialism?

ANSWER: Since its inception, the nonalined movement has been a great anti-colonialist movement and has successfully pushed forward its relentless struggle against imperialism, old colonialism and neocolonialism in all its shapes and forms, in all its manifestations, and against all sorts of plots of foreign exploitation of the countries, nations and peoples of the world. This movement has fought to liberate the people of the world from imperialist exploitation, to ensure them the right of self-determination and to achieve freedom for the countries and nations under colonialism and exploitation. Furthermore, the great worldwide nonalined movement, as a great force of peace and worldwide cooperation and as a large movement against colonialism and exploitation, continues its battle to eliminate domination and to erase the cruel traces and remnants of colonialism and exploitation from all corners of the world. The nonalined movement also encourages the destruction of the remnants of imperialism, old colonialism and neocolonialism, exploitation and other unjust plots in the countries and nations of the world by supporting wholeheartedly the freedom, independence and national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nations, as well as the right of self-determination for the people of the world, and by supporting the struggles and national and progressive liberation movements. Especially in certain parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America, it has encouraged and strengthened the freedom and progressive movements. Thus, the nonalined movement is an important force seeking peace and promoting justice in today's world and is considered a great contributor to and protector of the antiimperialist struggle by the people of the world.

**QUESTION:** What role does the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries play in the nonaligned movement?

**ANSWER:** The principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries is an important and basic principle in the nonaligned movement. Following this important political and legal principle in the international community, the nonaligned movement is a proponent of noninterference in the internal affairs of one country by another. It not only considers the application of this principle necessary in any reciprocal and mutual relations, or bilateral encounters between the nonaligned countries, it also considers the application of this principle a necessity in relations between the aligned and nonaligned nations, especially in relations between the latter countries.

On the basis of this lofty principle of the nonaligned movement, one nonaligned country must not interfere in another country's affairs. Naturally, this nonaligned country itself would not permit other countries, aligned or non-aligned, to meddle in its own internal affairs. Furthermore, on the basis of their membership in the nonaligned movement, the nonaligned nations must actively refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of other independent countries. Especially those countries that have joined the ranks of this worldwide movement must seriously abide by this important principle of non-alignment and should refrain from meddling in the internal affairs of other countries, especially of their neighboring countries, so that there might be no violations or deviations in the application of the principle of non-interference.

The nonaligned movement respects the principles of independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and diplomatic equality of the independent nations. It supports the principle of peaceful coexistence among nations having diverse political and social systems, and it considers necessary the application of the principle of noninterference, which bears close and logical connection with the above-mentioned principles in the matter of relations between nations, especially between the nonaligned nations. Furthermore, this movement regards the total application of this important principle in relations between various countries as a means of easing tensions; it regards this as an effective means to strengthen ties of friendship and expand international cooperation and as an important factor in preserving world peace and security.

**QUESTION:** What relationship is there between the nonaligned movement and the struggle against feudalism?

**ANSWER:** Inasmuch as the nonaligned movement, as a great peace-loving and justice-seeking force in the world, has an anticolonial nature, it is considered an anticolonial movement as well. The nonaligned movement is willing to establish friendly and fraternal relations with the countries of the world and desires to expand fruitful and taintless cooperation among them based on a sense of justice and common interest. Imperialism, on the other hand, tries to make domination the basis of relations between countries in the interests of colonialism and exploitation.



The nonaligned movement supports the establishment of just relations and nonexploitative cooperation between countries based on equality and mutual interests. Inasmuch as the interests of imperialism and feudalism bear a close relationship with each other in many respects, and since the nonaligned movement with its anticolonialist nature stands against colonialism, the movement thus opposes feudalism. Therefore, feudalism, because of its affinity with imperialism, constitutes a base in feudalistic countries for the domination and survival of colonialism. Therefore, whatever blow is inflicted upon the forces of colonialism and exploitation by the nonaligned movement is in reality a blow against the existence and survival of feudalism in the world. Therefore, the victories of the nonaligned movement encourage and support all democratic and antifeudalistic struggles to bring to power the national and progressive regimes according to the interests and wishes of their people. Consequently, it can be said that the nonaligned movement not only struggles against colonialism and exploitation, but also against domination by feudalism.

QUESTION: What is the role of Afghanistan in the nonaligned movement?

ANSWER: As an active and faithful member of the worldwide nonaligned movement, the DRA, with complete honesty, plays its role in the growth and perfection and victories of this great movement. Indeed, the role of Afghanistan in the course of this nonaligned movement has been a truly active and effective one since the victory of the Great Saur Revolution and the establishment of the DRA. As a progressive, nonaligned country, the DRA takes part in the struggles of the nonaligned movement against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, Zionism, racism, apartheid and other forms of colonial domination and exploitation; and it will continue to play this progressive and humanistic role within the framework of nonalignment and as an active and permanent member of this movement.

Following its national and independent foreign policy, the DRA, as an active and progressive member, will play its part in the nonaligned movement, both inside and outside the framework of nonalignment, with total honesty and straightforwardness in providing and securing peace, establishing peaceful coexistence, easing tensions, and settling international disputes, as well as in furthering positive and taintless cooperation among nations, disarmament, and the prevention of the arms race and war or the threat of war. Our government believes that by affirming this friendship and cooperation, it will not only play a useful role in strengthening friendship, peace and cooperation in the nonaligned movement and among its member nations, but will play an active role as a nonaligned nation for the purpose of strengthening peace and world security and expanding fruitful international cooperation.

The DRA believes that it plays an active role in securing peace and social justice for the society of mankind by following its proper and progressive historic path within the framework of the nonaligned movement and in the international arena. It believes that the realization of these lofty goals is not only the primary objective of the nonaligned movement, but also acts to



protect the peace- and justice-loving countries of the world. The DRA has played an active role in the meetings and sessions of the nonaligned movement, and it will pursue this role in the future in a positive and effective way in all meetings of this movement. The DRA played an active role in the meetings of the nonaligned nations in Havana, [name indistinct] and Colombo; it played an active role in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade as well. It intends to carry forward this active and positive role during the Sixth Summit Conference of Nonaligned Nations to be held in Havana.

CSO: 4906

CUBAN JOURNALIST INTERVIEWS TARAKI ON NONALINEMENT

Kabul Radio in English to Europe 1900 GMT 2 Sep 79 LD

[Text] The great leader of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, recently received Cuban journalist (Tomas Grenaido), for a press interview and answered his questions: [read by announcer]

QUESTION: As the president of a nonaligned country, what importance do you attach to the Sixth Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Nations in Havana?

ANSWER: The sixth summit conference of the heads of state and government of the nonaligned countries convenes at an important and sensitive juncture of the history of the nonaligned movement. Convening of this summit meeting of the nonaligned countries manifests another development and evolutionary phase in the development and evolution of this world movement. This is the largest and most expansive gathering held yet by the nonaligned countries which is to be attended for the first time by more than 90 countries. This conference manifests the fact that most of the countries of the world, particularly the developing countries, are included in the nonaligned movement and a large number of other countries, too, are desirous of membership in this world movement. This membership and the desire for membership in this movement manifests the strength and the vastness of this world movement.

The sixth nonaligned summit conference has been able for the first time to draw together the greatest number of nonaligned countries, hence the resolutions and decisions of this great and high conference will have an effective and beneficial role in evolution and further sound growth of this movement for its future successes. On the other hand, this is the first summit conference of the nonaligned countries which is held in Latin America and the success which will be scored by this conference shall provide favorable ground for the advancement of this movement in this important region of the world. Furthermore, a larger number of the countries, which in the course of this conference have expressed the desire to become members of the movement, are Latin American countries.

Similarly, this conference is convened at a time that [as heard] this sensitive and important region of the world passes through an important juncture in its eventful and evolutionary history, and this at a time when most of the peoples of this region have attained great national and revolutionary victories and favorable ground has been created for the success of most of the national liberation and progressive movements of Latin America.

The sixth summit conference of the heads of state and government of the non-aligned countries takes place at a time when the struggling and revolutionary people of Nicaragua triumphed over the Somoza fascist dictatorship and the heroic people of Grenada, after their revolutionary success, established a progressive and Khalqi regime and other forces of progress and freedom of this continent, too, are proceeding towards (?victory). The Sixth Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Countries takes place at a time when world imperialism and reaction are vigorously trying to weaken the solidarity and unity of this movement with plots and intrigues and to block the (?growth) of strength and successes of this movement. But this movement has attained such maturity that the intrigues of its enemies cannot undermine its unity and solidarity or block its advancement and victory.

Another importance of this conference lies in the fact that in Havana, the capital of the beautiful and revolutionary country of Cuba, much endeavor has been made for the advancement and evolution and insuring of unity and solidarity of this world movement and tireless efforts have been made for the [word indistinct] and success of this movement. The state, government and the people of the friendly and brotherly Cuba with much exertions and efforts have brought about favorable conditions for the conference which will be cause for the pleasure of the friends and guests. The success which will be attained by the conference in reality will be tantamount to the success and victory of the state, government and the people of heroic and revolutionary Cuba.

QUESTION: Afghanistan has been a member of the nonaligned movement from the past, but it is the first time this country will be represented through a revolutionary state at a nonaligned summit conference. What do you say about the importance of this matter?

ANSWER: The Sixth Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Countries is also important for Afghanistan due to the fact that for the first time a Khalqi revolutionary and progressive state represents Afghanistan at such a high level conference. Although Afghanistan is a time-old member of the nonaligned movement, before the Great Sawr Revolution, due to the reactionary character and dependence on imperialism of the (?states) in power in Afghanistan, the role of our country in the nonaligned movement had a ceremonial and symbolic nature. But after the Great Sawr Revolution the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan declared its true loyalty to the nonaligned movement and has played its role effectively and actively as a progressive and revolutionary state in the activities and gatherings of this movement and has earnestly tried for the preservation and consolidation of the unity of the movement and for its success and triumph.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan actively and positively took part in the meetings of the coordinating bureau of the nonaligned countries in Havana, Maputo, Colombo and at the foreign ministers' meeting of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade and is hoping to play its role effectively in the sessions of the Havana summit. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is happy to be taking the active part in (the sessions' aims) at development and evolution of the nonaligned movement and insuring of the unity and solidarity of the movement and will refrain from no essential efforts for the success and victory of the movement.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, pursuing the fundamentals and principles of the nonaligned movement whether in the framework of this movement or outside it, will continue its efforts for the preservation of peace and international security, consolidation and extending of detente, elimination of international tension, expansion of peaceful coexistence, general disarmament, prevention of war and arms race and actively struggle as a member of the nonaligned movement against imperialism, old and neocolonialism, exploitation, racism, apartheid, Zionism and other hegemonies and other exploitative and colonialistic profiteering.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is of the opinion that with the application of this policy of peace to operations and [word indistinct] she not only takes an active part as a loyal and true member in enhancing the success and progress of the nonaligned movement, but is convinced that the fulfilling of this active and positive policy also plays a beneficial role for insuring the peace, social progress and well-being and prosperity of the human community. Furthermore, for my person, it is a matter for special pleasure to see in the course of this conference the most friendly and brotherly state of Cuba and meet at firsthand my revolutionary and heroic comrade, Fidel Castro, and other esteemed leaders of Cuba and the noble and heroic people of Cuba and will convey the warm and revolutionary greetings of the people of Afghanistan to the heroic and toiling people of Cuba and will be most happy [word indistinct] witnessing the successes attained after the triumph and success of your revolution in various aspects of life by the people of Cuba.

CSO: 4920

## AFGHANISTAN

### BRIEFS

**NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS**--Tomorrow, 31 August, is the national day of the Pashtun and Baluch people, and on this national day of our Pashtun and Baluch brothers, majestic ceremonies will be held throughout our beloved Afghanistan. Celebration of this national day of our Pashtun and Baluch people will be held in Kabul tomorrow morning at Pashtunestan Square with the hoisting of the national flags of Pashtunestan and Balushestan. On the occasion of commemorating this national day of our Pashtun and Baluch brothers and sisters, the Ministry of Communications has issued a special postage stamp in a special size and beautiful design which will be available at the city post offices starting the day after tomorrow. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Aug 79 GF]

**USSR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AGREEMENT**--The agreement pertaining to offering credit for the purchase of agricultural machinery and tractors at a cost of 4.5 million dollars, needed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, was signed with the USSR. The agreement was signed (?in) the presence of associate professor, Dr 'Abdorrashid Jalili, minister of agriculture and land reform, and Aleksandr M. Puzanov, the ambassador of the USSR to Kabul, by deputy minister of agriculture and the economic counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul. The agreement was signed and its documents exchanged this morning at the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform. In accordance with the agreement the said equipment and machinery will be delivered to Afghanistan by the USSR side between 1979 and (?1983).

CSO: 4920

## ALGERIA

### 'AL-SHA'B' CALLS FOR MOVES AGAINST U.S. MIDEAST INTERESTS

Algiers AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Aug 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Blatant Contradiction"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Middle East policy is strange. Strangest of all is its wrong and contradictory logic. The U.S. administration talks about a dialog which it hopes to conduct with the PLO while at the same time refusing to recognize the PLO or even negotiate with it unless the organization abandons its function as such and recognizes the Zionist state on Palestinian soil.

The United States also speaks about the "rights of Palestinians and their right to self-determination" but at the same time denies their right to establish an independent state of their own in their own country.

It appears that the United States now wants a dialog with the Palestinians in order to reach an understanding with them on "killing" Palestine accepting the fait accompli which the Zionist state has imposed and joining Al-Sadat's surrender process.

There seems to be no possibility of a change in U.S. policy in the near future in favor of right and peace based on justice, rejection of colonialist and expansionist aggression and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to return to their home.

Indeed all the signs indicate that the United States is becoming more intransigent and unyielding in its hostile attitude toward the Palestinian people, particularly toward their right to establish an independent state of their own, and in its hostility toward the aspirations of all the peoples of the area and their aspiration for economic and social progress and liberation from the imperialist monopolies that systematically plunder their wealth.

In fact the Arab side is to blame because it has helped the United States to be intransigent and unyielding and to be hostile to the Palestinians and all the Arabs. Al-Sadat's Egyptian regime has totally and unconditionally surrendered to imperialism and Zionism and has turned the whole



of Egypt into an imperialist farm and into a gateway to Zionist infiltration in Africa. In addition to the surrender of the Egyptian regime there are certain Arab parties that are showing weakness toward the United States and its interests in the area.

Some of the Arab countries--not necessarily all of them--can deal a deadly blow to illegitimate U.S. interests in the area that would break its arm and wring its neck in the Middle East.

But none of this has happened so far. This is what makes the United States indulge further in its intransigence and hostility toward the Palestinian people and their legitimate national rights. It is doing all this while its interests are secure and are even expanding and increasing.

When the United States feels that its interests are really in danger because of its total bias in favor of Israeli aggression and its total hostility to Palestinian rights it will change its policy and stand in a way that will safeguard its interests and secure its position as a great power.

CSO: 4402



**ALGERIA**

**BRIEFS**

**VATICAN APPROVES AMBASSADOR**--His Holiness the Pope's State Secretariat has recently agreed to the appointment of Salah Bey as ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Holy See (Vatican City). [Excerpt] [Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15 Aug 79 p 1 LD]

**SOVIET MESSAGE**--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic of and secretary general of the party, this afternoon received the Soviet ambassador to Algeria who delivered a message to the president from the Soviet leaders. [Text] [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 79 LD]

CSO: 4402

# AL-QALYUBIYAH FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Jul 79 p 46

[Interview with Fathi al-Badrawi Nufal, secretary general of Al-Qalyubiyah Province, by Ibrahim Husayn and Husayn Mustafa: "Al-Qalyubiyah Pioneers in Food Security Projects; Confrontation and Dialogue Between the Province and the Peoples of Al-Qalyubiyah Were Able To Solve Many Problems"]

[Text] This man impressed me by his perceptive comments on local government, and what this local government expects, having become the "protector of our land," and the governor of each province having acquired powers of the president of the republic.

The man is Mr Fathi al-Badrawi Nufal, secretary general of the Province of al-Qalyubiyah. He is one of the pioneers who have begun to work in local government since 1960. He has worked in organizational and administrative offices, to study the organizational construction of the provinces, and the area of cities and villages. He set forth concepts of what local work in each province should be.

Mr Fathi al-Badrawi was secretary in al-Minya Province from 1965 to 1968, then secretary general of the Province of al-Buhayrah in the period from 1968 to 1973, then secretary general of the Province of al-Fayyum from 1973 to 1978. Then he became secretary general of the Province of al-Qalyubiyah.

Mr Fathi al-Badrawi Nufal, secretary general of al-Qalyubiyah province, said to me:

"This is one of the pioneering provinces in the area of agricultural production. It is famous for the variety of its production of different field, orchard and green crops, medicinal herbs and perfumes. In view of its nearness to Cairo, that throws on it the burden of sharing in providing the capital with what needs of daily life it requires.

"The total land of the province reaches 219,329 feddans, of which 27,154 are fallow. Cultivated land is 192,175 feddans. Orchards and trees cover 46,525 feddans. Cultivated vegetables in the three seasons are 77,775 feddans.

"I have drawn up a plan for an increase in vegetable cultivation; it is a flexible plan, due to the breaking of monopolies and restrictions. This plan finds expression in the adoption of a system of vegetable agriculture in concentrations according to type. This calls for an abundance of seed and advance payment for the vegetable farmer, as well as payment for expensive fertilizers, technical supervision, fighting disasters, and the organization of marketing operations, through setting up cooperative centers in the villages, and setting appropriate prices, and encouraging the installation of refrigerators, indeed setting up a permanent national council for vegetables and fruits, which would include all the workers in this field, then expanding into canning operations in specific types of production."

[Question] Are there many restrictions or crises in vegetable cultivation? How can these be solved, in your opinion?

[Answer] What some call vegetable crises are only temporary restrictions which last only a few weeks, and which happen usually twice a year, once at the end of October, and another time in the middle of March. This is in periods which are between the different seasons.

The solution to these crises in agriculture is overlapping seasons, and the organization of crop flow, carefully supervising the markets to prevent exploitation.

[Question] This has to do with vegetables. What about fruit?

[Answer] The fruit orchards in al-Qalyubiyah occupy an area of about 45,000 feddans, and constitute one-fourth of the cultivated land in the province. The province has been one of the leading ones in this field for a number of years.

Nevertheless we are involved in studies for the purpose of capital expansion in agriculture and the re-organization of crop composition for the cultivation of the land, and the increase of its productivity, to give the highest possible yield.

[Question] What about invading the desert of al-Qalyubiyah?

[Answer] In fact, the horizontal expansion in the province is limited, and the uncultivated lands are small in area. We are thinking of turning to cultivate the desert in the region of the lands of al-Khanikah and the lands which form imaginary boundaries between us and Ismailia and al-Sharqiyah.

Therefore we have set up associations for land reclamation, such as the association of Ahmad 'Urabi, 7500 feddans, the association of Khariju al-Zira'a, 22,000 feddans. In addition, we have given opportunity to the owners of factories for the cultivation of lands surrounding the, after their reclamation, so that there would be an essential contentment in cultivation. After that, we give possession of the lands to those who are working on them, on the basis of the decisions of our president and leader, Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, to encourage people to cultivate and possess lands.

We come to the food security projects in the province. The secretary general of al-Qalyubiyah Province said:

"Al-Qalyubiyah is truly in the forefront of the provinces who have food security projects.

"With respect to the wealth in domesticated animals, the province has around 50 percent of the stock farmers in the republic. It shares in filling the needs of the capital for stock and eggs.

"There are 1,017 private stock-raising farms, and 18 government-owned stock farms. From them, 20 million chickens are produced, constituting 30,000 tons of meat. There are 55 private egg farms, and 16 government-owned; their productive capacity is 51 million eggs per year. From the production of the egg farms, about 34 million eggs are yearly reserved for the stock company, and the rest for local consumption.

"The stock farms do not work to their full capacity. This problem was solved by agreement with the Public Stock Co. to give the producers the necessary chickens for five cycles per year, in addition to announcing cooperatives for raising chickens in Qalyubiyah, the task of each of which is to increase wealth in stock animals. Likewise, fodder factories are carrying out studies on this, in order for them to work to full capacity. There is also work being done to set up large refrigerators to preserve the products of this stock."

[Question] What about resources in fish?

[Answer] In fact, fish are the only way we have to confront the deficiency in animal protein. In al-Qalyubiyah there are large areas of water surfaces which are suitable to be fish farms. These water surfaces amount to about 62 feddans, of which 25 feddans are being exploited for agricultural reform, and 10 feddans for the city of al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah.

The province is now carrying out studies to clean these water surfaces of weeds and water plants. We have also contacted the Institute of Naval Sciences and officials concerning developing our fish resources, to benefit from their expertise in knowing the best kinds of fish which can be raised in these areas.

Then we came to the problems of the province that relate to the citizens. Mr Fathi al-Badrawi answered:

"One thing of which there is no doubt is that the housing problem is the problem which becomes more and more critical each day, in view of the increase in the population without a corresponding increase in services. What makes the problem more acute is the rise in the price of materials for building construction, which has made the private sector refrain from building. For that, there must first of all inevitably be an abundance of materials.

"The governor of al-Qalyubiyah, Dr Ahmad Fahim, tried to encourage housing cooperatives, so that the owner of a [piece of] land would build a building and take an apartment there, and rent the rest of the apartments."

In conclusion, Mr Fathi al-Badrawi Nufal, secretary general of the Province of al-Qalyubiyah, said:

"We hope that al-Qalyubiyah University will be completed, as we hope for all problems to disappear. We also hope for a solution to the housing problem and an abundance of all services in an age of peace and prosperity. By serious work from each individual, and by the cooperation of individual efforts and the efforts of the state, we will cross over to prosperity, God willing."

9397

CSO: 4802

## SHUBRA AL-KHAYMA PROJECTS COMPLETED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Jul 79 p 47

[Interview with Ahmad Hamdi 'Abd al-Muhsin, council president and under-secretary of Shubra al-Khaymah, by Dr Fu'ad Muhyi 'l-Din, Sa'id Ju'ma and Ahmad Kamal Fahmi: "Shubra al-Khaymah — Heart of Industrial Egypt; and the Projects Which Have Been Completed To Put an End to the Problems of the Peoples"]

[Text] What are the characteristics of executive work inside our largest industrial citadel, the city of Shubra al-Khaymah? What is the future of this important, vital region after the application of the new administration law? Such regions need varieties of special executive leadership in which there are abundant stipulations of the depth of vision and extensive, persevering work, and sincerity in the goals that are set out. This is what we found when I met with the president of the council and undersecretary of Shubra al-Khaymah, Ahmad Hamdi 'Abd al-Muhsin. The man speaks to you of numbers and scientific planning, and is always striving to live in different work situations, far from the routine of the secretary. The subjects of discussion with him were varied; he dealt with the issues of food security, the problems and needs of the industrial society, and the way to multiply production and bring about immediate solutions for the problems of the peoples.

The president of the council of the city of Shubra al-Khaymah says that the first problem is the division of Shubra al-Khaymah into two main parts as a result of the fact that the Bahri railway line divides the city into two parts. Therefore it is determined that a high bridge will be built to help the flow of transport and movement between them, so that the wheel of production will not be stopped, and to put an end to the repeated accidents resulting from the crossing of citizens between the two parts of the city by way of a ramp, which is one of the things that makes it necessary for the bridge to be built quickly, which will also result in the doubling of production, an increase in time, and especially that the ramp's closing will be repeated every hour.



The story of the proposed bridge began with the repeated attempts of the province to construct it, which began in 1971 and still continue up to now, resulting in the Housing Ministry's lending the sum of 50,000 pounds in 1977 and 500,000 pounds in 1978.

Mr Hamdi 'Abd al-Muhsin, president of the council of Shubra al-Khaymah, says that work on the bridge must be pushed quickly, and the necessary loans for the project must be supplied, so that work does not stop on this important, vital utility for the people of this great industrial region.

We asked the president of the council of Shubra al-Khaymah about the most important projects that had been completed in the year 1978 toward solving the problems of the people and granting stability for the citizens of the region, most of whom work in production or farming. He said, "The sum of 200,000 pounds was lent in 1977 for the construction of classrooms for the different grades, as follows:

"Twenty-one rooms in the elementary school behind the Nasir Youth Center; 12 rooms in the elementary school in al-Sharqawiyah; 12 rooms in the elementary school in Mashiyat al-Nasr; 16 rooms in the middle school in Manshiyat al-Hurriyah; 24 rooms in the middle school for girls in Manshiyat al-Nasr; 7 middle school rooms for girls in Ard al-Islah; 10 rooms to comprise the Bijam elementary school, and 8 rooms in the secondary school of the military for boys; 8 secondary trade school rooms for girls, 4 rooms in the Mustarid elementary school; 9 public secondary school rooms for girls, previously the Ahmad 'Urabi elementary school; its size has become 23 rooms; 6 rooms in the 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad elementary school, and 6 private secondary school rooms in the Shaykh Khalid school.

"This is in addition to the construction of a number of schools and rooms: an elementary school east of the railroad, with 21 rooms, costing 50,781 pounds; an elementary school west of the railroad, with 12 rooms, costing 27,676 pounds; an elementary school east of the railroad, with 12 rooms, costing 27,879 pounds.

"There are a number of completed projects in Shubra al-Khaymah which deal with different facilities and housing projects. In the sector of electricity, for instance, the streets of the city have been lit at the cost of 30,000 pounds. In the health sector, the complete clinic has been built at the cost of 166,264 pounds, as well as the medical center, the expense of which up to now has been 75,176 pounds. A refrigerator to preserve carcasses has also been built at the cost of 4,000 pounds; 130,000 pounds have been lent for pavement. Five rooms have been completed in the al-Azhar Religious Institute for Boys at the cost of 11,518 pounds, and the Religious Institute for Girls at the cost of 15,000 pounds. For the town construction sector, which includes the raising of the walls of the Department of Facilities, 1000 pounds were loaned, and a stable and a bathroom were built in Bahtim. In the cultural development sector, a factory has been construction for ready-made clothes at the cost of 30,000



pounds. In the sector of services, the Kabulat commercial center has been built at a cost of 113,474 pounds, and the Nobar commercial center at a cost of 187,267 pounds.

"In the area of housing, 2 average model-8 buildings have been built at a cost of 126,696 pounds, and an average model-8 building and an average model-3 building. As for the industrial housing sphere, 54 units have been constructed in Shubra al-Balad at the cost of 559,282 pounds, and 36 units in Mustarid at the cost of 380,733 pounds, in addition to 7 units in Shubra al-Khaymah, 37 units in the Kabulat region, and 21 units in the Delta region. Likewise, the following were built by contractors: 2 units by Hamid al-Azhari; 1 unit by Fathi Mabruk; 1 unit by Muhammad Raf'at 'Abd al-'Al; 2 units by Muhammad al-Azhari; 2 units in Mustarid by 'Allam al-Qadi. The total cost of the industrial housing units was 2,673,771 pounds, in addition to supporting health expenses and work in bringing water to the upper stories, by obtaining help from personal efforts."

After the story of numbers it becomes clear to us what is the scope of services and projects which have been completed in the industrial region which represents the heart of our pulsating industries, and future of the coming generations.

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CSQ: 4801

## BRIEFS

**ENACTMENT OF SHARI'A PLANNED**--A comprehensive plan to enact Sharia (Islamic legislation) will be completed by next November, People's Assembly (PA) Speaker, Dr Sufi Abu Talib, said yesterday. The plan, he said, will be referred to the Assembly for consideration and final decision. The plan, which is currently worked out by an ad hoc PA committee, is aimed at adequately giving the principles of Sharia the force of law, Dr Abu Talib affirmed. The Speaker was addressing a mass rally in Minia Governorate yesterday. Counsellor Ahmed Moussa, Socialist Prosecutor-General, and Mr Faruk Afifi, Governor of Minia, were also present. Sharia provides general and already set rules the application of which has been entrusted to able Moslem thinkers to work out, Dr Abu Talib said. He stressed that the principles of Sharia, when enacted, will not, by virtue of their very nature, in any way jeopardise the rights of non-Moslem Egyptians. The PA Speaker said that we still observe the interest rates system because, for one reason, it is still maintained by Islamic countries granting us loans. Dr Abu Talib said any law passed after 1971 until the time Sharia has been enacted will be constitutionally null and void if it is in contradiction to the principles of Sharia. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 15 Aug 79 p 3]

**SINAI TOURIST PROJECTS**--A comprehensive plan for activating tourist projects in Sinai has been drawn up by the Ministry of Tourism as part of the government's intention to revitalise the territory as it is restored to Egypt after 12 years of Israeli occupation. The plan will be carried out on two parallel lines. The Minister of Tourism, Dr Mahmud Amin Abdul Hafez, said the first includes attracting the home tourism movement. To this end, a number of summer resorts are to be created on the Sinai coast overlooking the Mediterranean, and on the eastern coast of the Peninsula overlooking the Gulf of Suez. The second line of the plan, according to the Minister, is to meet the needs of international centres and summer resorts on the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Aqaba shores will be soon developed. Religious and cultural shrines such as Moses Mount and Saint tourism. For this purpose, sports Catherine Monastery will have a part in the development plan, Spas will also be set up for rest-cure tourists. [as published] "Mountaineers and desert explorers will also enjoy themselves in the area" the Minister said. Camping sites will be soon provided

at Saint Catherine's and at the Moses Springs' areas to accommodate tourists interested in religious sites as well as tourists who suffer from certain ailments and need treatment. At Ras Omar, on the Red Sea coast, several facilities will be constructed as a prelude to the construction of a large tourist village in the area, announced the Minister of Tourism. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 16 Aug 79 p 2]

MILITARY EDUCATION--Military education will be developed so that, during their four-year course, the cadets would get both, the military qualifications and a university degree, said Lt General Ahmed Badawi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, who added that the Supreme University council has approved this development. During a press conference given by Lt. General Badawi and Dr Mustafa Kamal Heimi, Minister of Education, General Badawi said that the Military College's cadets will study business administration for four years after which they will get their degree in commerce. As for the cadets at the Air Defence College, they will be given a course similar to that given at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Alexandria. Dr Heimi said that cooperation between the educational system and the Armed Forces dates back to more than 150 years when the Medical School opened at Abu Sa'zbal to provide medical care to the Armed Forces before it was moved to Kasr el Eini. Dr Heimi pointed out that Egypt's revolution against colonialism was not only military but also social, cultural and intellectual and added that developing military education is for the benefit of all the Egyptian people. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 14 Aug 79 p 3]

CSO: 4820

KHOMAYNI ISOLATED EXCEPT FOR PLO--BAKHTIAR

Mainz ZDF TV NETWORK in German 2015 GMT 23 Aug 79 DW

[Excerpts from interview with Shapur Bakhtiar, former Iranian prime minister, by Peter Zwick, in French with superimposed German translation, date and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] The country is on the verge of civil war, the power of Ayatollah Khomeyni is being disrupted. Who can take over--the demoralized army or the fragmented parties in Iran?

[Answer] I believe that in order to answer this question we must first wait for the deterioration of Mr Khomeyni's authority, thereafter we can decide. Aspects that are still unpredictable can play a decisive role tomorrow. One thing is certain, however, the prestige of Khomeyni is disappearing because his actions and his policies are intolerable for his own people and for foreign countries. Actually he is being supported only by the very young and by those who are stupid--if you leave aside his closest helpers who are helping themselves.

[Question] The West has been banned from Iran's foreign policy. How about the East? Can Iran live isolated in an Arab world that quarrels over the Palestinian and energy problems? What friends does the regime have aside from the PLO?

[Answer] Khomeyni does not have good relations with the East either. It is even more strange that there are no friendly ties with the Arab and Muslim worlds either, except the Palestinians naturally, who do not constitute a state so far. Khomeyni has neither a geographic nor a geopolitical image of this world. I would even go so far as to state that he cannot even read a map.

[Question] If you were asked to set up a government, what priorities would you set?

[Answer] First of all we need a minimum of law and order. One cannot undertake anything with slogans and tiresome and repetitious demonstrations or strikes for which nobody can see a use when there is a state of chaos. Second, one must get the country's economy going again, most of all agriculture where the situation is catastrophic.

# IRAN BELIEVED THREATENED BY COUNTERREVOLUTION

Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Aug 79 pp 1, 3

[Article by Eric Rouleau: "Iran--The Specter of Counterrevolution"]

[Text] Tension is mounting between the Islamic Government of Iran and its adversaries. On Sunday 12 August, there were violent clashes in Tehran between some 20,000 lay demonstrators and about 2,000 counterdemonstrators belonging to a Muslim organization. The final score was rather high: about 200 persons injured by flying stones, some of them seriously. On Monday morning, about 500 Muslim militiamen, wielding clubs, attacked the headquarters of the Fedayeen of the People (Marxist), shouting "death to atheist communism." While the building occupants fled, the premises were sacked. The Iranian Government on Sunday published a new law on the press which stipulates that no newspaper henceforth can be published without prior authorization from the Ministry of Guidance. According to that same law, foreign journalists, who publish malevolent articles about the revolution, will be expelled after an initial warning. In the series of four articles whose publication we are beginning today, Eric Rouleau, who has just gone to Iran, reviews the political and social forces involved.

## I. The Discreet Hope of the "Taghutis"

Tehran. "This is one of my last vintage bottles; before these events, I had more than 3,000 in my wine cellar," said our host, heartbroken, while a waiter, wearing white gloves, poured the wine into the glass and while others, just as solemnly, served liver pate. The dinner took its course, said the cool air of the Shemiran heights, on the terrace of the sumptuous private residence situated, like so many others, north of Tehran. The reflections from the light of the candles made a multitude of stars dance on the clear water of a huge swimming pool. Spotlights had been trained on well-manicured lawns with beds of flowers and hedges extending several hundred meters to the end of the grounds which are surrounded by a high wall.



With perhaps only two exceptions, all of the diners are "Taghutis." This Koranic name for a divinity embodying the devil has, since the revolution, been used in referring to collaborators, to the supporters or the privileged individuals of the old imperial regime. Just 2 months ago, a big doctor in the capital confided to us: "I no longer dare drive my convertible, to go out wearing a well-tailored suit, to smoke my pipe, or to speak a foreign language in a low-income section of town out of fear of getting hateful stares or being called a 'taghutí.'" But most of these people today are proud of this nickname, as it were, which they do not at all consider to be slanderous. "The shah's so-called autocracy has nothing over the theocracy of the mullahs," they say.

"You are surrounded here by a good portion of what used to be the establishment," our table neighbor remarked. "Is it not marvelous that we can celebrate just like in the old days!" A famous lawyer, confidant and intimate friend of the shah, he was initially arrested as a "corrupter of the land." But he was released by virtue of services rendered to militants pursued by SAVAK [intelligence and security organization], well-placed friends, and the recent call for clemency by the Imam Khomeyni. He came off rather well because he only had to return "unlawful profits" estimated at more than F 2 million--which he hoped to get back somehow. "Those gentlemen on the Islamic court are very good at figuring," he adds with a touch of irony amid a big outburst of laughter.

But the master of the house had less reason for rejoicing. He is one of the 51 giants of the business world listed by name who are either in Iran or who are refugees abroad and all of whose assets were purely and simply confiscated--and that includes industrial plants, commercial assets, shares in various companies, estimated at more than F 5 billion. Tall and distinguished-looking, with an athletic figure, in his fifties, with grey hair at the temples, multilingual without a trace of an accent, N.F. with a broad, sweeping gesture, showed us his property, saying without bitterness: "That is all they left me." He is one of the "privileged individuals"; hundreds of other personalities of the old regime who had "made policy"--courtiers, ministers, members of parliament, senior officers--not only were dispossessed, but were also arrested, sentenced to imprisonment, or executed.

Other profiteers of the old regime were not spared either. To stop real estate speculation, which resulted in tremendous fortunes being piled up overnight, all land not built up in the Tehran metropolitan area was confiscated and will be used for low-income housing, for the "mustazafin" (the disadvantaged), another word now in vogue in Khomeyni's Iran.

Those who were not the owners of their homes and who pledged to build one within three years were exempted by law. A bill currently involves huge agricultural properties several of which have already been occupied by force of arms by landless peasants.

The most severe blow however was struck at the urban bourgeoisie. The gradual nationalization of the banks, the insurance companies, and just about all large and medium industrial enterprises--aircraft companies, metallurgical plants, automobile assembly plants, shipyards, etc.--in June and early July deprived the old ruling class of one of its principal attributes of power.

"We did not think that the mullahs would act like ordinary communists; do they no keep repeating ad nauseam that property under Islam is sacred?" one of our table companions remarked. It is true that the administration of Mr Bazargan hesitated for a long time before taking measures against the property owners. But the nationalization order came from the Imam Khomeyni himself; for him, the right to own property is not compatible with "scandalous gains," "injustice," and "the pillage of the country to the benefit of foreigners." It is also true that economic necessity prevailed over doctrine which, by the way, was rather hazy anyway. Embezzlements, capital flight, and heavy debt had brought the banks and the principal industries to the brink of bankruptcy.

"We must admit," said a banker sitting next to us, "that Mr Bazargan did something that was very good for the public. He saved the banking system which was doomed to fail and, in this way, he rescued the small savers. As for big industry, it was unable to function due to lack of funds and ways of renewing raw material stockpiles."

Worker committees, which for the most part sprang up during the insurrectional strikes last autumn, established a kind of "self-management dictatorship" in all of the enterprises, big or small. In collaboration with or without the Islamic committees, the workers conducted purges, appointed their managers, granted themselves wage hikes, and determined the nature and level of production. These committees had no legal status and were not liable under the law or in the court. Since firings were forbidden--except in unusual cases--the owners and bosses were unable to reduce their personnel force and they were even less able to punish the "troublemakers" who most often benefitted from the complicity of the "Islamic committee." They are still far from the "shuras," those mixed owner-worker-employee councils which the Muslim integrists had tried to impose at the start of the revolution as a substitute for the labor unions.

The Union of Civil Engineering Entrepreneurs, meeting in special session on 24 July, adopted a resolution by a vote of 598 in favor and two against, urging the government to nationalize their enterprises. "We cannot carry on," said one of those entrepreneurs. "All the big projects have been interrupted for many months and we are forced to pay the workers who show up at the construction sites, weapon in hand. We begged Mr Bazargan to confiscate our enterprises, without compensation or indemnity. Otherwise, we face ruin and prison."

The new authorities however were not easily moved to pity. They are sure that the "taghutis" have no reason to complain. Many of them had taken the precaution, prior to the fall of the monarchy, to put their fortunes and most of their capital in a sheltered place, in foreign banks, or in the form of real estate property on the Cote d'Azur, in California, and elsewhere. Those who remained in Iran, with the hope that the free-enterprise system would be kept going, are managing to keep their enterprises "running" almost exclusively with the loans that the government and the banks had given them so generously. Thus the liabilities of the banks and the nationalized enterprises often greatly exceed their assets. It will cost the treasury dearly--and thus also the taxpayers--to get that money back. Failure is a sure thing, predict the taghutis with satisfaction because the government bureaucracy will be absolutely incapable of making them profitable.



## Defiance From the Multinationals

Defiance toward the Islamic revolution is even more widespread in foreign business circles often closely associated with the "taghutis." "Even if somebody were to offer me the most attractive contract on earth, I would politely decline the offer," we were told by the representative of a big French firm who had decided to put his formerly prosperous enterprise on ice pending a change in regime which, like many others, he considers inevitable. The state did not honor its commitments. The highest officials, recently appointed to their posts, are "terrorized" by the "Islamic Committees" which display "visceral hostility" toward the [passage missing in original] without distinction, as "imperialists."

In spite of the fact that France had granted the Imam Khomeyni political asylum, France is treated no better than the USSR or the United States. All contracts considered "iniquitous" or "useless"--concluded under the imperial regime, most frequently under rather strange conditions, to tell the truth--were canceled or "frozen" unilaterally. That cost the French alone between F 6 and F 10 billion, according to estimates obtained in Tehran by Mr. Jacques Marette (RPR [Rally for the Republic] deputy), a member of the National Assembly's Finance Committee. Enterprises which theoretically were entitled to compensation--including, among others, Renault, Paribas, the BNP [National Bank of Paris], Credit lyonnais, the Bank of Suez and Indochina--according to new legislation are not even supposed to be able to get their money out of the country.

## Libel, Funny Stories and Rumors

The fact is that the United States and Great Britain suffered more damage than France because those powers were supplying most of the arms for the shah's army. Overall, according to an estimate in FINANCIAL TIMES, the losses inflicted on the multinationals--close to \$80 billion constitute a cataclysm for business circles unprecedented in history, with the exception of the world wars.

Prospects in the energy field are even darker. The decision of Tehran, announced on 28 July, to suspend exports of natural gas and, at the same time, stop the construction of the Igat-II gas pipe line, which was to run across the USSR, seriously disturbed supplies for Europe, both East and West, and indirectly, to Japan and the United States. The foreseeable rise in prices on this commodity, combined with oil price rises--in case Iran cuts production back even further--would constitute a new and serious attack on the world's economy. People are still speculating on the prospects of catastrophe if the Iranian revolution, once consolidated, were to spread to other petroleum producing countries in the region.

"The fanatical mullahs who govern us are merely deluding themselves if they think that they could for any length of time resist the Western powers," in substance declared a pamphlet signed by royalist officers, circulated secretly recently in Tehran. Iran is indispensable to the survival of the West, for generations yet to come, the pamphlet explained. The United States will never drop its vital interests and has the means for asphyxiating Iran, for example,

by refusing to supply it with essential food products, especially wheat. If the American military advisors are not recalled, military materiel worth \$40 billion will decompose under the sun without maintenance. And if economic pressures should prove to be insufficient, the pamphlet concludes, Israel which knows the ins and outs of the country, the strategic positions and the key points," could, in collaboration with the United States, force the mullahs to their knees, not in 6 days, but in 6 hours."

These violent attacks, as well as countless lusty tales of doubtless taste downgrade the Imam Khomeyni, but constitute the choice tidbits of upper-class society. Tehran is full of "news" constituting a mixture of truth and falsehood about counterrevolutionary activities. Forghan--an "anticlerical" terrorist organization which has racked up several murders of clergymen--supposedly is only the overall name for various groups inspired by the CIA, the Israeli Mossad and SAVAK. The networks of these three special services supposedly are "almost intact" according to a widespread opinion, especially among active-duty officers.

Be that as it may, the mysterious fires--which the Imam Khomeyni blames on "American agents"--have ravaged the harvests, in particular the wheat harvest, in various areas. In Kurdistan, an officer of the old imperial army of Kurdish origin, Gen Azizulla Palisban, backed by huge funds, reportedly is trying to recruit an army of mercenaries in collaboration with the "feudalists" who are as hostile to the new government as to the Kurdish autonomous movement. Generals Khalatberi and Parviz Sabeti, former deputy chief of SAVAK, reportedly are active also among the Turkmenians, close to the Turkish border. In Baluchistan, where a large portion of the population, particularly backward, remains loyal to the monarchy, the portrait of the shah can be found in many entrance halls and armed royalist bands stop drivers in order to force them to display the picture of the former sovereign on the windshield. In Khuzistan, as in Baluchistan, tribal chiefs, formerly subsidized by SAVAK and "rallied" to the revolution, have taken over at the head of Arab autonomous organizations of an essential terrorist nature, stepping up attacks against petroleum installations.

"The Iranians should look at the evidence: Only the monarchy is capable of guaranteeing the unity and territorial integrity of their fatherland," a relative of former prime minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda, who attended the dinner given by N.F., assured us in a confident manner. Being a high official, she had received her letter of discharge that same day. "I am both proud and at the same time a little bit ashamed to express my loyalty to his majesty, no matter how modestly, compared to the anguish of Hoveyda," she said with dignity.

any "taghutis" however no longer display their royalist sympathies. They realize that the former shah is too discredited to have any real chance of getting back on the throne. Their hope, which they express more or less discreetly, is that other forces, liberal conservatives and--why not?--republicans might put an end to the Islamic revolution. They do not fear the republic as such.

## MUSLIM PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY SPLITS

[Editorial Report LD] KEYHAN in Persian on 9 August and ETTELA'AT in Persian on 11 August print the text of a statement by Hojjatol-Eslam (formerly referred to as ayatollah) Khosrowshahi announcing the resignation of all the members of the Muslim people's revolutionary party founders board and attacking the "suspicious elements" in the party who had taken part in marches with "pseudo-leftists" and "lackey-rightists."

Khosrowshahi levels bitter complaints at Alizadeh and Haqiqi [Central Committee members representing the "secular wing" of the party], citing instances of decisions being taken without the consent of the founders board and of articles being printed in the party press different from that approved, and criticizing in particular the introduction of candidates "not fit to represent an Islamic party" and the call for postponement of the elections 2 days before they were due to be held.

Khosrowshahi explains that in order to preserve unity between Islamic parties and groups he proposed to Ayatollah Shari'atmadari that the party should enter into a coalition with the Islamic Republic Party and other Islamic parties. While the founders board looked favorably on this, "opportunists" like Alizadeh and Haqiqi who are at present members of a number of groups, parties and societies objected. Khosrowshahi then names the founding members who are resigning and disclaims responsibility for anything done in the name of the party. Their own views will in future be made known through a new independent weekly publication from the theological seminary at Qom known as BA'THAT.

CSO: 4906

## IRAN

### BAHAIS' RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL ROLE ANALYZED

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 18 Aug 79 p III

[Article by Wolfgang Lerch]

[Text] News of the treatment of religious minorities in Iran is contradictory. While some Muslim religious leaders, following orders from the Ayatollah Khomeini, ostensibly visited the religious services of non-Islamic minorities to evaluate them and to demonstrate religious tolerance, some fanatics vented their temper on the "infidels," at least verbally. After the mass exodus of Persian Jews at the beginning of the year, it is now the Bahaïs who in some localities are getting into difficulties, if reports emanating from that religious community are to be believed. A radical Muslim group calling themselves "Mojaheddin-e Rah-e Haqq"—Fighters on the Way of Truth—and certainly not acting according to the wishes of the government, has announced that they will convert the Tehran Bahai temple into an Islamic university. The Shiite leader Ayatollah Nuri is said to have stated that the Bahai religion is a "development of Judaism, Zionism and the Kabbala," and serves "international imperialism."

The Bahai faith has by far less in common with Judaism than Islam has in common with Judaism, since much in the Koran, the holy book of Islam, is reminiscent of the Old Testament. It is also a fact that the Bahai religion has originated from Shiite Islam. About 130 years ago, a young theologian by the name of Saiyid Ali Mohammed of Shiraz made his appearance preaching that he was the "Bab," the "gate" to divine truth, precursor and herald of an even greater one who was to appear soon after him on earth. In a short time such crowds flocked to Ali Mohammed that the caste of "ahunds," that is, of the Islamic theologians or mullahs, felt forced to take action against the "Babis." This was the easier for them because they could count on the support of the ruler, Shah Nasr ed-Din, since the Babis were demanding something that the ruler could not grant them: social justice. In 1850 the "Bab" was executed in Tabriz, accused of having incited his followers to revolt against the authority of the state.

Following an unsuccessful attempt on the life of Shah Nasr ed-Din, a wave of bloody persecutions of the Babis set in, with many thousands of people



falling victim, among them the young and gifted poetess Qorrat ol Ein. One of the survivors of the massacre was Mirza Husain Ali who was born 1817 as son of a minister in Tehran. He was exiled to Bagdad, which was under Turkish rule at that time. Before the Turks moved him to Edirne in the vicinity of their capital, Constantinople, to keep him under closer surveillance, he claimed to be the prophet promised by the "Bab," assuming the designation "Bahauallah"--Splendor of God. This was the actual hour when the Bahai faith was born.

The founder of the new religion spent the last decades of his life in Acre in Palestine, a Turkish punitive colony. It is from there that he despatched his famous "missives" to the Pope and to European monarchs, such as Queen Victoria, Kaiser Wilhelm I and Tsar Alexander II. He called on these rulers to pursue a policy of peace and international understanding.

On European soil, among the first to concern themselves with the preachings of the Bahauallah was the Russian poet Tolstoy. This was at a time when Tolstoy diverged more and more from orthodox Christianity and cast the doctrine of the Bible into a simple moral rigorism without metaphysical attributes.

Under the leadership of the Bahauallah's son, Abdul Baha--Servant of God's Splendor--the Bahai religion spread beyond the confines of the Near East. Today its adherents number in the millions and live in all continents of the world. The Great Temple on Mount Carmel near the Israeli town of Haifa serves as spiritual center.

The Bahai faith is a universalist religion of human brotherhood. Its sources are not only the writings of the "Bab," of Bahauallah and of Abdul Baha, but also the Koran, because the Bahais are setting no small value on revelations that have preceded. There is no essential distinction between the various prophets; all major religions are reflections of the same divine truth, of which the prophets are mirrors. Revelations recur in cycles, "each revelation is sent down in that manner which conforms to the circumstances of the age in which they appear," as expressed in Bahauallah's "Cleanings." If a religion loses its radiance--as the Bahais believe is the case with Islam and even more so with Christianity--then the "kairos" has come, the right moment for a new prophet.

Much in the religion founded by the Bahauallah is reminiscent of Islam: its strict monotheism, its rejection of the Christian dogma of the original sin, its realistic assessment of human impulsiveness. However, there is an unsurmountable difference in the question of linking politics with faith. While orthodox Islam does not differentiate between sacred and profane things and therefore equates religion and politics, the Bahais profess "abstinence from party politics." It is their conviction that politics cannot produce fundamental changes in human communality, each individual is called upon to gain his enlightenment from God and to search in his own heart. It is

the concept of "metanoia" which is known in Christianity as the "Damascus experience" and in Islam as "tauba," as "remorseful contrition," which is given absolute preeminence in the Bahai faith.

Another area where the Bahais differ from orthodox Muslims is in the question of the status of women in society: the Bahais profess complete equality of the sexes. This demand by Bahaullah had a revolutionary effect in the Orient and contributed much to the polemics that are still going on to this day between representatives of the Muslim clergy and the "heretics." In Muslim countries the Bahais have fought courageously for the equality of women and have found understanding for their position among liberal Muslims.

Another objective that the Bahais strive to achieve is a gradual elimination of nationalism. To realize the unity of mankind is only possible if the barriers between nations—geographical as well as ideological—are finally broken down. In his writings, their prophet Bahaullah has shown a premonition of the future creation of such worldwide organizations as the League of Nations and the United Nations. A world government is the utopian objective of their expectations and hopes. To promote understanding among all nations they support the creation of a common world language and world economy, the common language to be used alongside vernacular languages and writing systems.

In the FRG the Bahai communities are on the increase; they are centered in south Germany—Abdul Baha once visited the city of Esslingen near Stuttgart shortly after the turn of the century—and in the Rhine-Main area. The Bahai temple stands at Langenhain near Frankfurt. The relationship of the German followers of this religion to their environment, determined by Christianity, though not always acting in the spirit of Christianity, is not without its problems, because it is not always possible to reconcile all the values propagated by this religion with the value concepts idolized in the modern western industrial society: autonomy of the personality, hedonism, mad pursuit of progress and value positivism.

8453

CSC: 4403



JEWS CONGRATULATE KHOMEYNI ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY

Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The religious community and all Iranian Jews, in a telegram, have congratulated Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution, on the occasion of the Happy Id al-Fitr. The text of the telegram is as follows:

To the blessed presence of the great and illustrious leader, the viceregent of the hidden imam, his great eminence the Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his munificence continue. On the occasion of the Happy Id al-Fitr, which is one of the greatest Islamic festivals, the religious community and all Iranian Jews respectfully congratulate the blessed presence of that great leader, their great eminences, the learned Ulema and all our dear, beloved and worthy Muslim Iranian brethren; and once again express the solidarity of all Iranian Jews with this movement and beseech the Almighty God for health, happiness and long life for the illustrious leader.

[Signed] On behalf of the religious community of and all Iranian Jews, (David Yashukhof).

Also, today, Rabbis (David Yashukhof) and (Orin Davudi), at a meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani congratulated him on the Happy Id al-Fitr festival.

Replying Ayatollah Taleqani said: What the imam and we ourselves constantly say is that our Jewish brethren should be happy in this realm and we wish to revive in this country the school of thought of the Israelite prophets, but Zionism has rendered hideous the visage of the prophets of the children of Israel who followed the path of Abraham.

Rabbi (David Yashukhof) in reply said: The Zionists are not Jewish by religion and we, thanks be to God, are living in conditions of complete tranquillity thanks to the Islamic Republic and to the imam.

Rabbi (Davudi) said: Our message to our Muslim brethren is that a person merely because he speaks in Hebrew or wears the garb of a true Jew should not be confused with those Jews who do not proclaim and believe in the words: "There is no God but Allah!" [as heard]

## MULTIPLICITY OF POWER SEEN PARALYZING IRAN

London THE MIDDLE EAST in English Aug 79 p 7

[Text]

Nearly six months after the revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran is still trying to come to grips with the problems of running a country along revolutionary and Islamic lines - a no mean task after nearly two and a half decades of the Shah's autocratic and corrupt rule.

If many Iranians cannot understand what is happening around them, it is mainly because they do not know who is actually ruling the country. Is it run by the sincere and well-respected hero of the revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini, and his Revolutionary Command Council? Is it run by the increasingly frustrated and helpless government of Prime Minister Bazargan? Or is the real power in the hands of the armed men who control the streets of Tehran and other Iranian towns and villages?

Judging from the experience of the last six months, Iran is in fact being run by all these parties, who were responsible in varying degrees for the success of the revolution. This multiplicity of power is behind the paralysis plaguing the country at the economic, political, and cultural levels.

The answers to these problems are not simple, for there has been no precedent for a revolution like that which took place in Iran. The shift from a secular to a religious mode of life and government is a new phenomenon and the change cannot happen overnight.

The experience of the last six months has shown the ayatollahs that they have to tread carefully and show some kind of flexibility as they try to get Iran going in a new direction. Iran is going through an experimental stage where both the ruling powers and the people are trying to come to grips with new problems and a new way of life.

The Iranians have to go through a period of uncertainty until the regime is able to, first, wipe out the vestiges of the Shah's rule and, second, find out through trial and error what is best and most feasible for a country like Iran.

Some headway has already been made. Perhaps the most significant is the drafting of a new constitution. The sooner Iran gets back to parliamentary life, the quicker will the country

return to normalcy. It is hoped that by autumn Iran will have an Islamic constitution, an elected parliament, and an elected president.

But even that can create problems. Who, for example, will be the new president? Logically, the post should go to the Ayatollah Khomeini. There is no reason why he cannot put on the two robes of politician and spiritual leader. If that does not happen, a duplicity of power will persist. The new president will be regarded as a puppet in the hands of the mullahs and his authority might be curtailed by directives issued from Qom.

Ayatollah Khomeini appears fully aware of the problem of multiplicity of power. He must have had it in mind when he narrowed the gap between the Revolutionary Command Council and the civilian government by giving some of the RCC members ministerial posts last month. This may help restore confidence in the government and prevent the two bodies from working at cross purposes. Now there is less excuse for the Bazargan government not to go ahead with sorting out the serious problems of unemployment, economic paralysis, and the restoration of law and order.

This last problem is perhaps the most immediate challenge facing the regime. The arms in the hands of the various para-military groups must be collected immediately. Otherwise Iran may face a situation similar to that which has plagued Lebanon for the last four years where armed men apply the law of the jungle and create havoc all around.

Sooner or later the Iranian regime will have to resort to the Armed Forces to restore law and order and to collect the arms in the hands of the citizens. So emphasis must be put on building up the Armed Forces again, which for all intents and purposes, disintegrated during and after the revolution. If confidence among the members of the Armed Forces is not restored, Iran could face some serious threats from both within and without, threats that could destroy everything the revolution has accomplished.

## IRAN

### BRIEFS

TUDEH PARTY BAN CRITICIZED--Iran's ruling clergy headed by Ayatollah Khomeyni moved further yesterday to abolish recently regained freedoms by banning 23 newspapers including the organ of the Tudeh (Communist) Party, MARDOM. The banning of the Tudeh party newspaper, MARDOM, which carried on a heroic underground struggle against the shah and his regime is a peculiar way of advancing the cause of the revolution. By banning MARDOM, the Ayatollah and his men will be bringing aid and comfort to the enemies of the revolution, for the paper played a leading part in mobilising Iran's working people, and above all the oil workers, for the consolidation and development of the gains of the revolution. [Excerpts] [London MORNING STAR in English 21 Aug 79 p 3 LD]

COLLABORATORS EXPELLED--The purging committee at the University of Tabriz, in order to cleanse the university from elements that collaborated with the former regime, yesterday expelled 139 people who had collaborated with the hated Pahlavi regime and the dissolved Savak. According to a report by the correspondent of the PARS News Agency, seven of those expelled were from the teaching staff of the university and the rest of them were either from the administrative staff or the students. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Aug 79 LD]

CSO: 4906

## DETAILS OF IRAQI COUP EXAMINED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 4 Aug 79 pp 24-26

[Article: "The Full Details of the Attempted Coup Against Saddam Husayn: a Short Note Written by 'Adnan Husayn During a Meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council Exposes the Conspiracy and the Conspirators; Saddam Husayn Visited Jordan To Trick the Conspirators; He Traveled from Jordan to the Iraqi Military Base and Assured Himself of Its Loyalty to Him; Conspirators Requested Allegiance of Presidential Guard; They Sought Support at the Eleventh Hour from a Group of Paratroopers Outside Iraq When the Presidential Guard Declined To Proclaim Allegiance to Them; Mashhadi Was Not Arrested Because of the Conspiracy; He Lost His Nerve and Confessed Everything"]

[Text] If recent developments that occurred in Iraq are significant, serious and unsettling, the developments that will occur in the future as a result of conditions that coincided with the attempted coup against the regime will be more significant, more serious and more unsettling. This may be born out by the paragraph that was included in the statement issued on Saturday evening 29 July 1979 by the Regional Command the Revolutionary Command Council in Iraq.

The paragraph in question is this: "Those conspirators maintained contacts with a foreign agency throughout the past period. The command believes that disclosing the identity of this foreign agency now would not be in the national interest. The conspirators received funds and instructions from this agency and coordinated their criminal conspiratorial efforts with it."

There are some words in this paragraph which must be underscored. In fact, these words summarize the whole matter. The paragraph refers to "a foreign agency" and at the same time states that "disclosing the identify of this foreign agency now would not be in the national interest." This means that this agency is not [located] outside the area. It also means that disclosing its identity will take place at a subsequent time. Hence lies the supposition that developments which will take place in the future as a result of conditions that coincided with the attempted coup against President Saddam Husayn will be more significant, more serious and more unsettling.

After today it will be easy to show this by monitoring the tone of official statements, articles or comments that are published and circulated in Iraq.

What happened in Iraq may be defined as the "longest Arab conspiracy." Available information indicates this, and the official statement that was issued about the attempted coup confirms that "This group, which includes a handful of persons who infiltrated the party command and the revolutionary command with a band of traitors who were thought to be party [members], has been preparing for some years a malicious, conspiratorial plan whose purpose is to hurt the party, the revolution and the socialist and democratic gains of the masses."

The statement also included that "The Party Regional Command had discovered part of the movements and some of the contemptible, criminal activities that were carried out by those traitors. However, the command had planned to wait some more months until all parts of the picture were completed so that its intentions would not be misconstrued."

In the context of information that was available to AL-MUSTAQBAL, it may be said that the conspiracy began to take shape in 1975 and that its purpose was to overthrow President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and his Vice President Saddam Husayn. [The conspirators] wanted to take historical steps towards a pan-Arab confederacy, but they did not go beyond having good intentions [in that regard] which were attended by further preparations and increased caution. At the party meeting during which there was a discussion of the question of the resignation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the take-over of all his powers by his Vice President Saddam Husayn, an objection was made by Muhammad 'Ayish to the method that was followed in choosing a successor for al-Bakr. 'Ayish called for an emergency party conference to determine the method of choosing a successor [to the president].

Saddam Husayn and the members of the Revolutionary Command Council did not pause to wonder about this. They had become accustomed to the style of debate and the method of proposing ideas employed by Muhammad 'Ayish. It was a style that had made [his colleagues] refer to him affectionately as "the troublemaker."

The session ended, and a new episode began in the series of uncovering the conspiracy.

According to one version of the story Saddam Husayn spoke at length during the discussion about a conspiracy that the party was facing. Although such statements may be made repeatedly for the purpose of warning others, Adnan Husayn who is considered one of the few people who has the absolute trust of Saddam Husayn, wrote a few words on a piece of paper that was in front of him and gave the paper to Muhammad 'Ayish.

When the meeting ended and the members [of the Revolutionary Command Council] left the meeting room, one of the members gathered the papers that had been



left behind. His attention was drawn to that piece of paper on which 'Adnan Husayn had written a few words to Muhammad 'Ayish. Husayn and 'Ayish had not paid attention to that piece of paper because of the general confusion that had pervaded the meeting as a result of the statements Saddam Husayn had made about the conspiracy that the party was facing.

In a few moments that piece of paper was in the hands of Saddam Husayn. He had no doubt that it had been written by 'Adnan Husayn because 'Adnan was one of those who were closest to him, and he had frequently received handwritten notes from him. In short, Saddam Husayn recognized the handwriting of 'Adnan Husayn.

Another [version of the] story affirms that 'Adnan Husayn had written on that piece of paper that "It seems that we have been discovered." He was referring to Saddam Husayn's statement about the conspiracy that the party was facing. Still another story states that 'Adnan Husayn had written that "This is not the time to bring up such questions." He had made that remark to make Muhammad 'Ayish stop his remonstrations.

Whatever was in that note Saddam Husayn became suspicious after reading it and finding out that it had been written by 'Adnan Husayn. He personally began a cautious and a cool-headed examination of the matter.

Saddam Husayn began to recall how Muhammad 'Ayish had looked at him with some hatred during party meetings and how he had been bothered by that. He had, therefore, asked Tariq 'Aziz to look into the matter. Husayn remembered that Tariq 'Aziz had come back to tell him that he had talked with Muhammad 'Ayish and that the latter bore him no ill feelings. Tariq 'Aziz said that Muhammad 'Ayish may have had his own reasons [for appearing to bear Saddam Husayn ill feelings].

Saddam Husayn also remembered that he had not been satisfied with [the information] that Tariq 'Aziz had brought back and that he had charged 'Izzat Ibrahim to investigate the matter and that Ibrahim had come back with the same [information]. His brother Barazan, director of intelligence, had reported to him a similar impression.

After getting hold of some of the details of the conspiracy, Saddam Husayn went to President al-Bakr and told him the whole story, complete with names. The story had been supplemented with the results of the investigation [that had been completed] with a number of subjects who had been arrested after the events witnessed in the Madinah al-Thawrah district of Baghdad, in Basrah and in Karbala'.

When President al-Bakr heard what Saddam Husayn had to say, he expressed extraordinary surprise. The names that were mentioned by his vice president were those of the group that was closest to him, that is, to Saddam Husayn himself.



When Saddam Husayn went into further detail and explained the relationship between the conspirators and the "foreign agency," President al-Bakr said that he had been thinking for some time of resigning, but that everytime he expressed the wish to resign, he was turned down. After what happened, however, he thought that Saddam Husayn should face this problem squarely in an effort to preserve the revolution and the party.

The president and his vice president reached an agreement about this. Saddam Husayn decided to adopt a plan that was based primarily on cool-headedness so that matters would go on as though he knew nothing about what had happened and conspirators would not notice that he knew what they had planned.

It was business as usual, and everybody felt confident.

Husayn was informed that some officers at one of the bases on the borders with Jordan had sided with the conspiracy. He made an unexpected trip to Jordan that was to last 3 days, but he cut his visit short and returned to Baghdad on the following day by land. He visited the base and discussed general questions with the officers and with the base commander, and he talked with them about the necessity of making preparations to oppose Israel and to uphold the question of Palestine. The officers who had sided with the conspiracy did not become aware of the fact that he had intended to trick them. In addition, such a visit undoubtedly caused them some confusion.

The session in which Husayn was to assume power was held in the usual fashion, and the official mandates and duties were distributed in accordance with the command position. Husayn tried to keep 'Adnan Husayn in a position that would make him incapable of discovering anything and would prevent those who had joined him in the conspiracy from becoming aware of the fact that they had been discovered by the new president. 'Adnan Husayn was appointed deputy prime minister and assumed the duties of chief of the president's office. Husayn then sent him abroad on an official mission to inform [other officials] about the changes that had taken place in Iraq.

On the following day matters fell into their usual course, and the conspirators had no idea that President Saddam Husayn was making preparations for revealing the conspiracy.

On Friday evening, 20 July 1979 information abroad about events and arrests that had taken place in Iraq had begun to break. President Saddam Husayn convened an urgent, emergency meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council.

Muhi 'Abd-al-Husayn Mashhadi who had been permanent secretary of the Revolutionary Command Council and had been relieved of his duties and arrested on 16 July, was brought to the meeting. He confessed that he had been a participant in the conspiracy.

It is worth noting here that Muhi 'Abd-al-Husayn Mashhadi had been arrested for reasons pertaining to the events that had occurred in the Madinah al-Thawrah [district of Baghdad] and in the south. Because in his view these reasons would not have required his arrest, he assumed that he was arrested because the conspiracy had been discovered. He broke down immediately and said that he was ready to confess to everything, and he did confess.

Up to this point matters were proceeding in a normal fashion. The last episode in the cold-hearted scenario turned out to be extremely suspenseful.

An expanded party conference was convened, and everybody, including the conspirators, attended without knowing what was the reason for the meeting. Taha al-Jazrawi who had been appointed the prime minister's first deputy and who is a well-known party figure began to talk. In a sorrowful, dejected voice he [addressed the conference and] announced that a painful and a terrible conspiracy had been perpetrated against the regime and that it was very painful and unfortunate that the leaders of the conspiracy were among the most prominent party leaders and his oldest associates.

In the midst of the unprecedented bewilderment that settled over all those who were present, al-Jazrawi announced that all those who had taken part in the conspiracy were present in the hall and that one of them would narrate what had happened. [He said] that whoever heard this name mentioned would have to leave the hall immediately.

Muhi 'Abd-al-Husayn Mashhadi was brought into the hall, and he began to narrate what had happened. He said that the conspiracy had begun in 1975 and that it was Muhammad 'Ayish who had undertaken to organize the conspiracy ring and that he was sounding out the leaders. He was able to put together a command group that included Muhammad 'Ayish, Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil, himself (that is, Muhi 'Abd-al-Husayn Mashhadi) and Muhammad Mahjub. 'Adnan Husayn did not join the command of the conspiracy until 1977.

He added that it was the duty of Muhammad 'Ayish to contact and recruit labor leaders; that it was the duty of Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil to contact intellectuals; and that it was the duty of Muhammad Mahjub to contact party members.

He said that they had been able to recruit the commander of a brigade [that was stationed] near Baghdad and that after recruiting him it was possible to recruit a number of officers.

He said that Muhammad 'Ayish had met with an Arab military attache and that he had received 20,000 dinars from him in the area of Sadr al-. A few months later he received another payment that amounted to 50,000 dinars. There were other payments after that, and the last payment was in the amount of 100,000 dinars.

President Saddam Husayn interrupted at this point and asked, "What was the money for?"

Muhi 'Abd-al-Husayn Mashhadi replied, "To facilitate communications, to help those who had joined the conspiracy and to recruit intellectuals."

Mashhadi added that the foreign agency had approved the coup and its goals and that contacts that were taking place between some conspirators and representatives of this agency did take place in remote areas and under cover of darkness.

He said that after contacting the foreign agency Muhammad 'Ayish called a meeting that was held at the home of Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil. At that meeting the five conspirators agreed that it was necessary to persuade President al-Bakr that he not resign--he had decided to resign--because military and party preparations for carrying out the conspiracy had not yet been completed.

At the session during which the matter of the resignation of President al-Bakr was discussed, the five members did make an effort to have the resignation postponed, but President al-Bakr, who had been apprised by his Vice President Saddam Husayn of the details of what was taking place, insisted on resigning. It was at that time that the incident of the note which 'Adnan Husayn wrote and which we referred to at the beginning of this article occurred.

Mashhadi added that the conspirators decided after this session that the conspiracy had to be carried out despite the resignation of President al-Bakr and especially since the transition period would be a time of "psychological imbalance that may be utilized advantageously.

The military element that had participated in the conspiracy was brought to the confession meeting, and he related some information. Among the things that he said was that in the course of sounding out others, he discovered that the presidential guard was absolutely loyal to the president and to the law. The idea of seeking the aid of paratroopers from the foreign agency was then suggested. They would parachute in Iraqi military clothing on the eve of the coup. But Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil objected and said, "The matter would be found out and there would be war between the foreign agency and us." He said that it would be better to depend on a small Iraqi military force that could be used well.

At the meeting Saddam Husayn said that he had expected conspiracies from everywhere but not from his colleagues and associates in the party. Addressing the conspirators, he added, "What was it that you lacked which made you conspire? Aren't you leaders in the party, and can't you bring up opinions for discussion?"

Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil said, "We did in fact conspire, and we have nothing to say to defend ourselves."

What is important is that Muhi 'Abd-al-Husayn whose confessions had been recorded on a video tape had provided 50 names. Whenever a conspirator's name was mentioned, two military policemen would step up to him and escort him outside the hall.

Until other information [becomes available], what has happened in Iraq will continue to be the strangest conspiracy of its kind.

We repeat: the developments that will follow the conspiracy will be more unsettling than the conspiracy itself. As a result the region may experience new kinds of alliances and unprecedented events.

8592

CSO: 4802

## ARABS, JEWS HASTEN TO BUILD IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jul 79 p 19

[Article: "Arab Construction on the West Bank Continues With the Goal of Establishing Facts"]

[Text] These days there is a mania for construction in Judea and Samaria, as well as the outskirts of Jerusalem. Jews and Arabs alike who live in the area say that the time is short and that there is a need to hurry up and establish facts. Among the Arabs the prevailing principle is: Lay down the foundations for a house, establish some kind of a claim on your land before it is expropriated.

Among the Jewish population it is the Gush Emainim people who are calling for forthwith establishment of Jewish footholds in Judea and Samaria. They look back and see that very little has been done in the past 12 years so far as Jewish settlements go. They look forward and see that settlement budgets are as skimpy as they have been, and they are not enough to address what the Gush considers to be a minimum.

Numerically there are very few settlers in Judea and Samaria. Qiryat Arba, considered to be the oldest and largest in the area, has been at a standstill for the past 3 years, and it is doubtful whether it will grow in the next 3 years. All 40 settlements in the region, scattered over a large area and surrounded by Arab population, do not have enough people to match one medium-size Arab village.

### Foundations and Pillars

The Arabs of Judea and Samaria are well aware of the fact. They are cognizant of world sensitivity to Jewish settlements near and among them. They are conscious of political struggles in Israel around the question of the viability and feasibility of Jewish settlements in the region. They are pleased with the very fact that the supreme court is addressing their affairs. Some Arab public figures have already said that the mere fact that the subject of expropriation of lands, or even their seizure, for the purpose of Jewish settlement is brought to court in Israel is significant in itself.



It is thus that the struggle evolved; it is partially overt and partially covert. It pitched land owners on one side and Gush Emunim on the other. What happened in Judea and Samaria also had implications on the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem. The result is that while supporters of settlement in all of the Land of Israel employ pressures, demonstrate, settle and demand funds to support their newly established settlements, the Arabs in the area are acting quietly to establish facts.

Just as there are Israeli personalities and institutions that support Gush Emunim, so there are Arab personalities and institutions in Judea, Samaria, East Jerusalem and other places, that support the Arab family and help it, in various ways, to build a home.

Hebron is the leader among Judea and Samaria cities in doing all it can to stem the development of Qiryat Arba. Since its establishment, 9 years ago, it has been an eyesore for the local population, and their aim is to render it underpopulated and without an economic basis.

To this end foundations for about 300 homes were layed in barren land bordering on Qiryat Arba. As time went by there were more and more ditches dug for more foundations, and then came concrete pillars, which established facts. Today Qiryat Arba is surrounded by Arab homes, one, two and three stories high. Some are occupied by owners, other have been rented. Some homes were built slowly, others were built fast, but they were all built with the moral and financial support of the city.

#### Ignoring Plans

The mayor, Fahd Quasma, and members of the City Council were concerned about seizure of lands bordering Qiryat Arba and they warned the owners, in time, that if they do not hurry up and build they might lose their land.

What happened near Qiryat Arba also happened in the vicinity of Jerusalem, but on a much larger scale. The situation today is such that there is hardly any supervision on Arab construction activities in the so-called "rural" areas within Jerusalem's jurisdiction, or bordering it. It is estimated that there are about 2,500 construction sites. They are scattered throughout the area surrounding Jerusalem, from the town of Beit Ja'allallah, via Beit S'khor, Tzur Baakhr, 'Azarya, Issawiya, Beit Khaneena, Shuf'at, 'Atarot and Nebi Samuel.

How many houses are built with a permit? It is impossible to ascertain this. For lack of accurate data this author resorts to estimates, again. In the past 4 years the department of the city engineer had control over only 30 percent of construction within Jerusalem's jurisdiction. It is therefore reasonable to assume that there is an even lesser degree of supervision in the rural areas bordering the capital.



The situation is even worse in the Gush Etzyon region, around Ramallah, El-Birah and Birzit. If there are any master plans they are totally ignored. The principle guiding local governments is: Help land owners build homes on their land.

### Soliciting Capital

Recently the Nablus area has joined the construction race. Whereas up to just a few months ago people there thought that they were immune to the government's settlement plans, now Mayor Bassam Shak'a is working to instill the construction awareness in his area. Three weeks ago Bassam called into his office tribal leaders and village chiefs and warned them against expected expropriations in their area. The hint was obvious.

The fear of land expropriations which is driving land owners to hold on to them is also an incentive for family members to not abandon the area. The combination was dealt with at length at the Palestinian social conference which was held in Jerusalem recently.

In a discussion on factors for youth migration from Jerusalem and the West Bank it was mentioned that urban youth have a hard time finding proper housing and that rural youth find it difficult to build a home near their parents.

"Israeli authorities have already done their part to stem migration by trying to get us off our land. Now we have to face another obstacle, namely, finding enough financial resources to support any young man who wants to build a home on the land of his ancestors," said one participant.

### Ability To Withstand

True to fashion, one of the major resolutions of the Palestinian social conference refers to the ability of the younger Arab generation, born and raised in Jerusalem and the West Bank. In order that he not abandon the land of his ancestors there will be special funds, some of which are already in existence, others which are due to be established soon near local governments and regional welfare institutions.

But the main job is up to the local governments--urban and rural. They are expected to be prepared to render any possible help so the young people will not abandon the area where they were born and where their parents live.

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## SEA OF GALILEE WATER LEVEL RECEDING DANGEROUSLY

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Aug 79 p 25

[Article: "Dwindling Supply of Water Worries Officials"]

[Text] "Worried? And how," says chief of 'Ein Gev, 'Amos On, "the Sea of Galilee is fading away!" Anyone who has not stood on a dried-out parcel of seabed, exposed to the hot sun, cannot possibly understand the ominous connotation of these words.

"Around October," says 'Amos, "the water level will go down to below the "red line" of -212. The pumps will be pumping air instead of water. Irrigation water will no longer flow in the pipes. Let us prove wrong so we do not have to see the bananas and other crops dry in front of our eyes. Later on, who knows, home faucets will also dry out.

"Fishing is our fourth largest industry, following bananas, tourism and livestock. But if the lake continues its retreat and the classic breeding grounds (close to the coast) turn to dry rocks, the fish will cease to lay eggs and reproduce, and in addition to an important source of income we will lose a very dear symbol: fishing in the lake has never been disrupted, not even under Syrian fire.

"Today the Sea of Galilee has already receded 20 m and more. The forecast of a further decline of the water level means it will recede another 30 m! The marina will dry out and become useless, which means the end of boating and tourism in the Sea of Galilee. ... too, similar to fishing, have never ceased, not even under Syrian ...

### Three Water Reservoirs

The Sea of Galilee is fickle, capricious. "It has a right to be spoiled a little," say its "foster parents" of the Sea of Galilee Authority, with some intimate concern. They are in charge of tending to the lake and its ecological needs, of the "spoiled daughter," the only fresh water lake that nature has given us. And since this lake alone supplies about one-third

of the country's water needs it follows that every movement or caprice of the lake has serious implications for all of us. People of the Sea of Galilee Authority know what not every Israeli vacationer remembers: The lake is not only an inspiration to romantic poets, but primarily a life source for all of us. It is one of the three large water reservoirs in the country and the largest above ground, second only to the underground reservoir under the Galilee, the Carmel and the mountains of Samaria and Judea, all the way to Be'er Sheva. The latter reservoir is fed by rainwater and is extensively utilized by hundreds of wells.

The third reservoir, following the Sea of Galilee, is the underground water plateau along the Mediterranean coast. Its water is tapped in thousands of sites.

The water supply in these three reservoirs is compared with a bank account from which the country overdraws annually. Since the amount of average precipitation does not change, the deficit is growing. The level of the above reservoir, as well as that of the two underground reservoirs, is going down. Wells and springs are drying out.

The "Plunge" of 1934

At that point, the salinity, which worries water experts, becomes a real danger.

The problem with the Sea of Galilee is that it has a very low "catastrophe threshold."

The delicate balance of this large water reservoir is totally within the hands of the Creator. There are only 3 m between the high "red line" of 209 m below (Mediterranean) sea level and the low of 212 m below sea level. Thus there is a precarious range of only 3 m that only nature can control, by preventing a decline to under the critical level in a dry year, or a flooding of fields and homes in a rainy season.

When, in 1968, the water level reached -208.3 m it meant a level of 70 cm above flood level. The seafood restaurant in 'Ein Gev was flooded, waves covered the Tiberias Lido, some homes in Kineret were under water and there was serious erosion damage all along the lakefront.

Exactly 34 years earlier, in the long draught of 1934, the lake's water level plunged to below the low "red line": It went down to a low record of -212.35 m, and pumping of water for irrigation and home use ceased altogether. Says chief of the Lake Authority, Menashe Ben-Shlomo: "The population of the immediate areas--the Jordan Valley and the Lower Galilee--was very sparse then. There was little agriculture and the need for water was a serious problem for only a few. It is easy to see the dimensions of the calamity if the level goes down and pumping ceases in 1979."

At the end of July the water level stood at -211.08. The "disappearing" lake and the lowering of its water level continues, and the bitter forecast for this coming October is of reaching the shallow level and the low "red line" (-212 m).

At the Sea of Galilee Authority they all have a "touch wood" attitude. They cannot do any more. Only Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Me'ir could do something: He is authorized to penalize, to cut water allotments for agriculture (which uses about 75 percent of the total amount of water)--even at a high price to national agricultural production--and to curtail consumption of water for other purposes as well.

"Israel has arrived at a stage of precariously low water levels," declared the water commissioner in an interview with MA'ARIV, in reaction to the outcry of Negev farmers. "I know that this is a heavy blow to them. But the water situation in Israel today is one of the worst since the establishment of the state."

Water from the Sea of Galilee is pumped into the National Pipeline for the populated areas in the southern part of the country. The Israeli Water Authority was requested by the water commissioner to plan for a low water level in the Sea of Galilee. The plight of the Sea of Galilee did not happen all of a sudden. The draught in the winter of 1978/79 depleted the Jordan tributaries and source (Dan, Snir, Mt. Hermon), and, according to surveys of the hydrological service the flow decreased from an average of 16.5 cubic meters per second to 7.9. In other words, at least half of the amount needed to maintain the delicate balance of the largest above ground water reservoir is not coming in.

On the average there is a flow of about 800 million cubic meters annually, mostly from the Jordan, the rest from rain, springs and floods. Of this, 300 million cubic meters are lost to evaporation, 100-150 million are pumped out by 71 pumping stations erected all along the coast for the water needs of the "immediate area." About 350 million cubic meters are pumped into the National Pipeline for use in the central and southern parts of the country.

#### Danger Posed by Salty Springs

It is therefore easy to imagine the enormity of the crisis that the large water reservoir is facing, and as a result also the whole water system. Instead of 800 million cubic meters of water the lake has received only about 400 million in the past year from all its sources combined. About 300 million cubic meters were lost to evaporation and thus only one-fifth of the necessary 500 million cubic meters needed for pumping and distribution among the nearby regions and for the National Pipeline were left. In other words, only 100 million cubic meters! This is the problem and these are its dimensions this year.

The manager of the water department of the local council of governments and member of the lake's authority is worried--more than just worried--because of the growing danger of flooding the fresh water lake with the salty spring that may erupt from its bottom. Shimshon Shtein, a veteran of kibbutz Sha'ar HaGolan in the Jordan Valley explains: "The so-called 'salty pipe' was installed in order to reduce the salinity of the lake's water. Salty water is collected and channeled into a special pipe. The lake's salinity then decreased to a reasonable level for crops and other needs. The danger of raising the salt level of the lake was isolated under conditions of hydrostatic balance when the water level was above the low 'red line.'

The danger is renewed, and more seriously so, when the water level goes down to below -212 m. Water pressure on the lake's bottom decreases, "dormant" springs will erupt and raise the lake's salt level. Moreover, "there is no assurance that we will be able to reverse the process," claims Shimshon Shtein. "The danger facing all of us is real. The salinity of the lake now stands at 230 mg per liter. Sensitive crops--oranges, vineyards and other fruits--are watered by the Sea of Galilee mixed in with water from local wells, thus achieving the desired salt level of 170 mg per liter. A higher level can harm or even destroy them altogether."

Faced with the "local" danger of exposing the pipes and cessation of pumping, the water commissioner gave directions to extend the pipes in some stations. But the problem is still there, since the pumps are limited by their capacity of pumping from no more than 5 m--unless the engines are upgraded.

It now turns out that there are no pumps for emergencies such as this. "Of course they could be ordered from abroad," says Shimshon Shtein, "the question is how much time is needed to fill the order and if we can beat the race with the declining water level."

The gloomy outlook is going to be realized unless the water commissioner orders stopping the pumping of the National Pipeline, the largest consumer. The trend of the declining level could therefore be halted by an administrative decision. But such intervention is accompanied by a difficult dilemma, as Shtein explains, since discontinuing of pumping for the National Pipeline means over depletion of underground water in the (Mediterranean) coastal wells. The latter source has a "red line" of its own since "over pumping may cause a situation similar to that of the Sea of Galilee, when water from the Mediterranean increases the salinity of the underground reservoirs."

It seems, though, that there will be no choice but to curtail consumption. That is a decree that the public will probably have to live with--whatever the price.



## JERUSALEM PLANNING COMMITTEE APPROVES MAMILLA RESTORATION PROJECT

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Aug 79 p 7

[Article by Ulrik Plesner: "A Lovely, Lively Old City"]

[Text] NOW THAT the famous Mamilla project — after many changes and improvements — has been approved by the Jerusalem planning committee and the government district committee, this is a good time to look at it again and see how it compares with its original form.

First of all, what is the Mamilla project?

It is a large development project covering the area between Jaffa Gate and Rehov King David in one direction, and from the Hebrew Union College to the convent of St. Vincent de Paul near the Jaffa Road corner in the other direction.

The project has two parts. One is an underground bus terminal and parking building just outside Jaffa Gate. The other part is a mixed development further west which replaces most of Mamilla, mainly all the old garages and other run-down buildings.

The two projects could be carried out separately, but are interdependent in the sense that the commercial development helps to pay for the terminal, which is a public service.

The terminal is to serve the Old City. The Old City is a pedestrian area of half a square mile with no proper access for vehicles, deliveries, removal of waste, etc. Facilities at the main gates will contain parking for the inhabitants, areas for loading and unloading of goods and transferring the goods to hand or electric carts for internal distribution, plus bus-stops and parking for tourist buses, and facilities for storing and removing all rubbish from the Old City.

THE EXISTENCE of any town depends on transport. The town is an organism which has to be fed, as well as have its garbage removed. If one denies the Old City a reasonably efficient system of delivery and parking at points as closely as possible to where people live and work, then the Old City will be strangled, business will go elsewhere and so will the residents. It would become a tourist postcard-selling enclave and a museum — which is what has happened to several lovely old towns in southern Europe.

There is no doubt that if we do not want to build new traffic routes through the Old City (such as those which have ruined most "old cities") and if we do not want it surrounded by giant parking lots, then we must build terminals as near as possible to Jaffa Gate, Zion Gate and Damascus Gate.

Such terminals can be built in over the ground or under the ground. But only underground is acceptable, since any overground building would dwarf or blot out the very Old City wall whose majesty we wish to preserve.

The consequence of the decision to keep the Old City as it is, namely as a living pedestrian city, is to provide several underground terminals which will serve the population and hide an ugly aspect of modern life, namely big parking lots and bus exchanges.

ALTHOUGH almost anything would be better than the present mess outside Jaffa Gate, the question now is how to do the new in such a way that



it does as little damage as possible to the classical view of Jerusalem, or even how to make it into something beautiful.

The rest of the Mamilla project fills in the area between this terminal and Independence Park at the corner of King David and Agron. This land was a bare, rocky hill 100 years ago, the beginning of the valley of the Birket Sultan Pool and the Valley of Gehinnom.

To restore this continuing valley it will be re-excavated to its original level and left open, thereby connecting Independence Park and Gehinnom as one stretch of open space.

On either side there will be new buildings rising up the slope, not higher than the general height of the existing surrounding buildings.

This will replace the area of garages and workshops. The few nice old buildings in the area will be preserved, including the convent of St. Vincent de Paul.

Most of the new buildings will be shops and offices and apartments and hotels, the idea being to create a beautiful as well as a useful extension of the existing business centre around Jaffa Road and Shlomo Zion Hamalka. This will create a connection between that modern shopping centre and the one in the Old City, thereby eliminating the no-man's-land that exists between the two.

By connecting the New City naturally with the Old, it should heal one of the remaining wounds in the centre of Jerusalem.

IN RESPONSE to objections, the project has undergone significant changes in the last year.

For example, it is true that it is a big and expensive project, but it has been re-designed so that it can be

built in stages depending on the available financing. The road system is on the surface, instead of being a built-in part of the structures as before, and each stage will be a separate undertaking so that if the project is stopped after a certain stage there will be no visible scars.

The project does take part of the national park area, but if you count the landscaped roof of the underground terminal, it gives back 10 dunams more than it takes.

The reason is that the old border of the national park followed the edge of a now-cancelled six-lane highway that was planned to go past the railway station, through what is now Bloomfield garden, and across the valley behind the French consulate, to a tunnel under the corner of the Old City. That made an arbitrary line insensitive to the landscape. By a system of give and take, the effective national park area has now been increased.

MAJOR surgery is always distressing, particularly in cities, where it takes a long time to carry out. But in this case one must remember the alternatives. If we do nothing, the Old City will suffer, the area outside Jaffa Gate will get more congested and uglier, and Mamilla will deteriorate further.

One may also trust that surgery will work and that the area will become a lively and beautiful new part of Jerusalem.

The writer, a former chief Architect of Jerusalem, was appointed together with architect Ya'acov Rechter by the Municipality in 1973 to report on the project as it stood then. He has recently been appointed landscape consultant to the project.

# PALESTINIANS BECOME POPULAR ARMY IN FIGHT AGAINST ISRAELIS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6, 13, 20, 27 Jul 79

[Article by Farid al-Khatib: "David and Goliath War Transforms Palestinians Into Popular Army"]

[6 Jul 79, pp 10-11]

[Text] We selected the longer road to al-'Ayshiyah because the shorter way from al-Nabatiyah and through Kafr Rumman and al-Jarmaq, is exposed to artillery and 40-mm machinegun shells from Marj'uyun, the "capital" of the border strip controlled by Maj Sa'd Haddad since the Israeli occupation of March 1978 and declared a mini-state under the name of the "Free Lebanon." A few days ago, a small white bus belonging to one of the resistance organizations was fired on and three fighters were wounded while a fourth escaped unharmed.

We followed the Kafr Rumman-'Arab Salim-Jarju'-Mulaykh-'Aramta-al-Rihan road to al-'Ayshiyah. Despite this, we found on one of the road turns before reaching al-'Ayshiyah a red Peugeot 504 station wagon that had been hit and abandoned, with its door open. We later learned that the car owner escaped death miraculously a few days earlier when the car was hit by a tank shell that damaged it.

Captain Abu-al-Walid, commander of the third battalion of al-Yanmuk forces, told us in al-'Ayshiyah: "In the wake of the incident, we returned the fire and they stopped shelling the road. However, they shelled Mahmudiyat Shabib and other resistance positions yesterday but we did not return their fire. They also shelled al-Jarmaq inhabitants, while harvesting their crops, with 160-[mm] mortars. Three of the inhabitants were wounded and the harvest was burnt. So we retaliated by shelling the Marj'uyun barracks, hitting and exploding an ammunition dump in the barracks, damaging a number of vehicles and starting a fire which extended to the crops and continued till the next day."

Speaking about the Palestinian-Israeli war, he said: "Israeli aircraft fly in our skies constantly for reconnaissance or to stage air raids. The area has been exposed to numerous air raids aimed at certain positions. We have used our ground antiaircraft means to repel the raiding aircraft, thus preventing them from hitting their targets accurately. For example, 10 Phantom

and Skyhawk aircraft tried to raid our positions in al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rihan on 8 June 1979 and continued to fly over the area for a full hour, from 0415 until 0515. But we did not let them achieve their goals and they were thus forced to drop their load on 'Arab Salim and Habbush."

Answering a question on the weapons used by the Palestinians and the Israelis in the air and land war, he said: "F-15, Phantom, Mirage and Skyhawk aircraft attack us and we fight them with 23-mm, 20-mm and 14.5-mm machineguns and with SAM-7 (Strella-2) missiles--see cover picture published for first time. In land war, the Israeli army uses Howitzers 175 and 155, MX and SS 11 missiles and surface-to-surface missiles. Our positions retaliate with 120, 106, 78, 76 and 75-mm mortars."

Before noon of the following day, the border strip guns in al-Qulay'ah, Marj'uyun and al-Khuraybah and the Israeli guns opened fire on the area and their shells fell around al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rihan and in al-Jarmaq forests.

At the outset of our trip in the south, which links Lebanon with the Palestinian issue and links the Palestinian with the Middle East at the level of a political settlement in the area, we were received in Sidon by al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement in the south. He spoke about the military confrontation which he leads on behalf of the Palestinian Jalut [sic] against the Israeli David all along a 54-kilometer land line and a naval line extending from al-Zahrani to al-Bayadah. He said:

"During the 8-day war against the Israeli enemy army, we implemented with full success the military tactic of operating behind the enemy forces. This success has been acknowledged by the enemy, including his chief of staff. As a result of that war [presumably meaning tactic], we were not forced to withdraw from the central sector or from the area south of al-Litani. We stayed there after the war, after the Israeli army's withdrawal and after the entry of the U.N. emergency forces. We stayed there in a manner not conflicting with the U.N. emergency forces' task of implementing Security Council resolution 425 calling for the enemy's withdrawal behind the international borders of Lebanon. We even strengthened our presence in those areas.

"In light of the experiences of the 1978 war, especially in the wake of the entry of the U.N. forces and in light of the possibilities of the situation, we redeployed our forces. We gave priority to our presence in al-Nabatiyah where there is only a U.N. observation post on al-Khardali [presumably al-Khardalah], bridge. We also bolstered our forces with better weapons as a result of our study of the course of the 1978 war and of the conclusions we made on the positive and negative aspects of that war.

"We settled our problems with the Lebanese state. But our problems with Israel and with Sa'd Haddad's forces have persisted, especially in regard to our deployment and to completing implementation of resolution 425. These are problems emanating from the enemy's expansionist policy and from his historical ambitions, as well as from the Lebanese government's procrastination.

"After the war, we waged various battles against the enemy who used artillery shelling, land raids for which he employed infantry forces and boats and air raids. Those operations were aimed against civilian concentrations in Tyre and against the Palestinian refugee camps of al-Rashidiyah, al-Bass, al-Burj al-Shamali, Tiri and al-Qasimiyah, in addition to the Lebanese villages outside and within the area of the U.N. forces' operations. The shelling has led to the evacuation of the civilian inhabitants of Tyre and the camps. This is usually done in implementation of an Israeli eviction policy that precedes occupation.

"Israel has used advanced weapons in its aggressions, especially the 175-[mm] gun whose range covers the entire area of the south. This gun can be either mounted on armored vehicles or towed behind vehicles. Israel has used the gun to shell 'Adlun, (Meskav 'Amm) al-Nabatiyah, al-Rihan and al-'Ayshiyah from and al'Manarah in the occupied Palestine. Israel has also hit al-Nabatiyah and Tyre with surface-to-surface missiles.

"The enemy has also used his military boats actively, trying to land in the areas in which we are present but without success. He then resorted to the radar-guided Gabriel missiles to hit Tyre. These missiles can cruise at a speed of 900 meters per second, can be seen with the naked eye and avoided and are capable of hitting their target accurately.

"For the first time, the enemy has also used his naval forces' helicopters, designed to strike submarines, to hit targets in the city of Tyre from the air. The Israeli fighter [sic] planes have also strafed al-Damur, al-'Ayshiyah and al-Nabatiyah.

"Even though the enemy has not caused casualties in lives through the aforementioned three forms of shelling, he has inflicted obvious damage on buildings and has also ruined large areas of Lebanese crops.

"The enemy has used the heroic Nahariya operation as a justification to implement the strategy of striking the Palestinian revolution wherever it exists. This is a policy approved by the Knesset and declared by numerous Israeli officials. Thus, the aggressions has reached a peak. In all cases, we have retaliated to the aggressions by shelling military targets inside the Zionist entity. We have also hit the military targets [sic]. It must be clear to the enemy that if he decides to evict all the inhabitants of Tyre, then all the inhabitants of Nahariyah, and of the other settlements, must also evacuate."

[Question] What is the role of Sa'd Haddad's mini-state in the Palestinian-Israeli war?

[Answer] The Zionist enemy has military positions behind al-Bayadah, in 'Alma al-Sha'b, Saff al-Hawa, Tall'abbun, Markaba hills, Tallat al-'Uwaydah, al-Qulay'ah and Marj'uyun. The Israeli artillery is used from these positions. The Israeli intelligence is also engaged in concentrated activity along the entire strip. This strip, which ranges from 7 to 10 kilometers in depth,

seeks to prevent the revolution forces from reaching Palestine, to protect the settlements and to transform the conflict into a Palestinian-Lebanese conflict. But we have foiled the first goal because we can reach the heartland of Palestine despite the presence of the U.N. and isolationist forces. As for the second goal, we hit targets inside Israel when Haddad hits the civilian and military targets in the areas where we are present. We also hit Haddad's strip when necessary.

[Question] (I asked while the buzz of Israeli aircraft was getting louder in the skies of Sidon before noon) Do you have modern antiaircraft means to counter the Israeli air raids?

[Answer] We have antiaircraft guns and missiles, said to amount to 500 missiles, of which we hope to acquire more. It is well-known that an aircraft moves very carefully in the air whereas the situation is not the same with the ground fighter and his weapon. However, we do not use our weapons to intercept all the raids because they consist of daily tactical reconnaissance and sorties through which the enemy seeks to find out the places and types of our antiaircraft means which we save for more serious situations. We have numerous educated officers and university graduates who have attended courses for training on the use of modern antiaircraft means. Therefore, when we acquire [more of] these means, we will not need many military courses.

The fedayeen withdraw on a large scale from the central sector--namely, from al-Thalathin, al-Tayyibah, Bint Jubayl and 'Aynata--as a result of the 1978 war. The Fiji, Nigerian, Dutch, Senegalese and Irish battalions of the U.N. forces are now stationed in this sector. The fedayeen also have some positions and ammunition dumps behind the U.N. forces.

Several clashes have taken place between resistance groups and forces of the French and Fiji battalions in Tyre and Sidqin because of disagreement over the roadblocks set up by the U.N. forces and because these forces prevent the fedayeen from moving around while bearing weapons or in military uniform.

Near Tyre, I met Abu Nidal, the officer in charge of the resistance operations in the central sector. Speaking about the confrontation with the Israeli army and with Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces, he said:

"Our bases are exposed to shelling by the Israeli air force which we confront with camouflage, building trenches, spreading into small bases or negative resistance. Our ground antiaircraft means are not effective. Sa'd Haddad's forces try to expand toward al-Tayyibah, Bint Jubayl and 'Alma al-Sha'b but we confront their patrols. As for Shaqra, these forces have entered it under the protection of the Israeli forces."

I asked him about the percentage of inhabitants left in the Palestinian camps exposed to Israeli shelling and he said: "Al-Burj al-Shamali is almost empty. Al-Rashidiyah camp has 10 percent of its population, al-Bass 70-80 percent of the population and Tiri 70 percent of its inhabitants. Ma'tuq and al-Qasimiyah camps have not been subjected to shelling. "However, al-Qasimiyah camp was shelled on the following day."



[Question] What hit al-Burj al-Shamali?

[Answer] Nearly 500 missiles hit it in one day. It was also shelled with 155-mm and 175-mm guns, with 142-mm, 132-mm and 130-mm missiles and with fragmentation bombs.

Al-Burj al-Shamali camp had a population of 25,000 Palestinian refugees. Its area is 2 by 1.5 kilometers. Fifteen people were wounded in this camp and so its population emigrated to Sidon and the neighboring villages. Each tree in the camp has been hit by three or four bomb shrapnels.

'Azmi al-Sughayyar, the resistance movement official in charge of the western sector and commander of Abu-Yusuf al-Najjar battalion said: "We are on the move constantly because Israel keeps on pursuing us. A fedayeen carries his blankets on his back so that he may move more swiftly than the enemy.

"We are fighting three armies in the area. The first is the Israeli army, the second is Sa'd Haddad's forces, the stick on which Israel leans in the south, and the CIA men.

"Our battalion stages the Savoy-Tel Aviv operation or the operation named after leaders Muhammad Yusuf Najjar, Kamal Nasir and Sa'd 'Adwan. This operation was led by Lieutenant Khadr and martyr Dalal took part in it. Our battalion also staged the Zar'it operation in which three of our fighters were martyred. From this battalion we have reached Tel Aviv whereas the Arab armies have not been able to reach it!"

We toured one of the battalion's bases which consisted of tents erected in a lemon grove. The fedayeen are young in age and clean and their belongings are clean and tidy. We learned that the goal of the forces in this base is to guard the coast during the night.

Abu-Ahmad, the deputy commander of the armored September Martyrs Battalion which constitutes one of al-Qastal Forces' units, said: "The battalion is deployed in an area subject to the possibilities of air and naval landings. The area has been actually exposed to naval and air shelling more than once, in 'Adlun for example. We have foiled strongly and decisively a serious attempt for a naval landing and an attempt for landing by helicopters."

The battalion has armored troop carriers made by Fatah movement. These carriers constitute a development in the battalion's weapons and combat against the Israeli enemy, considering--according to the battalion's deputy commander--their ability to move easily, their maneuverability and ability to transport fighters.

We saw three of the armored troop carriers made by Fatah. They have five windows, three doors and an "eastern" shape and are impervious to light and medium weapons. They carry a medium machinegun and move on tires made of cast [al-masbub] rubber that is also impervious to the same abovementioned weapons.

[Question] Do you have sufficient antiaircraft means?

[Answer] The antiaircraft means are insufficient for protecting our positions and our concentrations. We have heavy and light antiaircraft weapons with which we prevent the enemy from achieving his goals. However, we are exerting ceaseless efforts to acquire more advanced weapons. We are fighting the Israeli enemy with our will. By a purely military yardstick, the balance of loss and profit is in favor of the enemy. However, we are fighting for a just cause and the decision in such wars is for the will and not for the weapons. Our infantry men are more courageous than the Israeli enemy infantry men. We can handle the enemy's boats, and his guns. We also use the RPG's to deal with the enemy tanks. If we solve the problem of the Israeli aircraft by acquiring advanced antiaircraft weapons, then matters will be in the best form possible.

Al-Jarmaq Battalion of al-Qastal Forces is what the student company of Fatah movement--which included a number of university students and graduates and which took part in the two-year war in all parts of Lebanon, including the south--has been transformed into.

Marawan, the battalion's deputy commander, said:

"In less than 3 months, the Israeli enemy's army has staged more than 10 major air raids against our positions in the south.

"The Zionist action has not created any negative situations because it has not caused human losses among the fighters or material losses to their bases. This action has also failed to bolster the prestige of the Zionist defense army. Rather, the Israelis have mired their military reputation in mud. Their air force has not been able to fill the gap and the war against the resistance has not succeeded. This is why the Israeli army has again focused on the Lebanese and Palestinian civilian targets and why it dropped 4,000 shells on 96 villages in the areas of al-Zahrani, al-Rihan, al-Nabatiyah District and Marj'uyun in less than 48 hours. These are the statistics of the U.N. forces. Weizman has admitted to only 1,000 shells. However, the intensive fire and the comprehensive shelling did not enable the Zionists to compel the Lebanese forces and our people in the south to exert negative political and moral pressures on the Palestinian revolution."

On the morning of the following day, we proceeded to al-Nabatiyah to check its conditions. The Monday market was proceeding with its business in al-Nabatiyah's main square amidst the destruction from which even al-Husayniyah School and the shops in the southern side have not escaped--destruction caused by shells. The nearby market was also crowded with people. The inhabitants of 56 villages surrounding al-Nabatiyah come to this town. Electricity is cut off all the time, water reaches the faucets twice a week because the existing network is enough for only one quarter the inhabitants and telephone lines are out of order, except in the main street. Before noon, the Israeli aircraft staged a mock air raid against the town and the Monday market dispersed.

The population of al-Nabatiyah has dropped from 35,000-40,000 before 1972 to only 4,000-5,000 at present. More than 60 percent of the homes have been destroyed or damaged and a large number of its inhabitants have been destroyed or damaged and a large number of its inhabitants have been killed or wounded. Its inhabitants now dwell in the outskirts of Sidon and in buildings on both sides of the main road from al-Zahrani to al-Nabatiyah. They visit al-Nabatiyah when they hear that the Israeli shelling of the town has stopped.

It is one of the Lebanese towns that have been most heavily exposed to the war and that have suffered from it since 1972 and until the present. At present, al-Nabatiyah is the headquarters of the main command of the joint forces in the south.

In the evening, we returned to Sidon. One hour after our return, the resistance sources said that Israeli military boats and helicopters were seen at exactly 2200 near al-Khayzaran beach.

We spent the night in Beirut and on the following morning, we headed for Fatah land through al-Masna' road.

[L3 Jul 79, pp 47-50]

[Text] In 1968, the fedayeen began to descend on foot from Mount Hermon, which they had arrived from 'Arfa in Syria, to Shib'a in al-'Urqub area and to al-Hibbariyah, Kafr Shuba and Kafr Hamam in southern Lebanon and proceeded to launch raids against the Israeli positions from there.

The Israeli army retaliated by shelling heavily their communication routes and their positions in al-'Urqub, using aircraft and 1,000-pound missiles.

Disagreement then erupted between the Lebanese state and the Palestinian revolution over the revolution's presence in al-'Urqub, whose capital is Hasbaya, which had a population of nearly 200,000 people and which includes Shib'a, Kawkaba, Rashayya al-Wadi and other villages. The disagreement was settled through Arab efforts exerted during the reign of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and culminating with the conclusion of the 1969 Cairo agreement that regulated the relations between the two sides. But Israel resumed its raids against the Lebanese territories while the fedayeen continued to launch their operations against the Israeli positions and facilities. The area came to be known as "Fatah land" because it is a border area in which the Lebanese army was not deployed and which the Israeli army did not enter. Through the Cairo agreement and the other agreements attached to it, especially the Milkart agreement, only the resistance, led by Fatah Movement, came to have real power over the area.

In 1972, Israel launched a two-month war of destruction against Fatah land. Each position was hit with 10 missiles, there was more than one raid every day and aircraft hunted down people in the streets. The war extended to al-Nabatiyah which was subjected to constant artillery shelling and in whose

skies Israeli aircraft kept on hovering. In that year, the Israeli army occupied an area of 30 square kilometers in the central sector and moved to within 10 kilometers of Tyre. The occupation lasted 48 hours and was ousted through the Lebanese diplomatic efforts. Meanwhile, the resistance remained in its positions in accordance with the Cairo agreement.

In the eight-day war between the Israeli army and the Palestinian resistance, the former was not able to ouster the fedayeen from the area and they have continued to be present in the area under the jurisdiction of the U.N. forces after these forces entered it.

These U.N. forces are presently deployed in Suq al-Khan, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, Kafr Hamam, al-Hibbaryyah, al-Fardis and Kafr Shuba and the outskirts of Kawkaba, which is still open to the fedayeen.

We went to the outskirts of Kawkaba where the Nepalese battalion of the U.N. forces has an observation point. The Lebanese army battalion which arrived in Kawkaba and was prevented by the Israeli army and Major Haddad from proceeding southward is deployed behind this observation point. The olive groves in the neighboring hills were burning and sending up smoke as a result of the Israeli artillery shelling before noon that day in retaliation for the shelling of the Israeli settlements--a shelling which, in its turn, had been in retaliation for the Israeli attacks on the previous day. I asked the commander of the Nepalese force: Where is this shelling from? He replied: I don't know. I said: Israel announced today that it had shelled those hills because they contain fedayeen bases. His comment was: The shelling may be from Israel!

The road from Kawkaba leads to Ibl al-Saqi, where a unit of the Norwegian battalion is stationed, and from there to Haddad's mini-state. However, we did not proceed on this road to its end. We moved on the opposite road to 'Ayn Qinya. The tree-covered hills on this road to Shib'a had been shelled by Israeli aircraft on the previous day. The shelling damaged [large] areas of pine trees, burned other areas and opened in them craters "each of which was large enough to hold an entire room." We saw a fortification which was said to belong to the Popular front-the General Command and below it a towed gun. The fighters' losses were one soldier wounded, not by the aircraft fire but by the artillery fire that followed the air bombardment. This is a new trick in the Israeli war against the fedayeen.

On the same day, the joint forces shelled the Israeli settlements of Dan, Ibl al-Qamh and al-Mutillah (Metola) with Grad missiles for more than half an hour. They also shelled areas inside the border strip.

The Syrian forces constituting a part of the Arab Deterrence Forces in the area are present in the villages of Jibb Farah and Kfar Mishki behind the "red line." This is a limited presence aimed at reassuring the Lebanese battalion in Kawkaba and at securing its needs. It is believed that the Syrians have deployed in this area SAM-3 and Sam-7 missiles to defend Syria.



In Ruha village, we met with Staff Colonel Abu Hajin, commander of the resistance forces in the eastern area. We asked him about the war with the Israeli army. He said: "After the eight-day war last year, the U.N. forces entered the area and formed a buffer zone ranging in depth from 5 to 8 kilometers between the joint forces, the Israeli enemy and Haddad, the enemy's lackey. Consequently, the Israeli ground attacks decreased and the air and ground shelling increased. A new method of fighting has developed in the area. The enemy has not staged any large-scale attack with tanks and vehicles.

"In accordance with Abu 'Ammar's decision permitting the U.N. forces to carry out their mission in the area in order to implement Security Council resolution 425 calling for withdrawal of the Israeli forces, we have dealt with the U.N. forces with utter sincerity so that they may perform their role fully. However, the enemy has been shelling us from points above the U.N. forces' positions and we have returned the fire. In the past, the enemy used to justify his aggressions on the pretext of our movement. But now, the enemy's shelling is linked to nothing other than his declarations on pursuing the Palestinians and striking their bases at the time and in the place that suit him. On our part, we try not to escalate the war and not to retaliate against the enemy from populated area. However, this has not dissuaded the enemy to stop shelling the civilian areas in his attempt to break the bond between us and the Lebanese people.

"The Israeli air shelling is carried out with missiles, bombs and machineguns. The ground shelling is carried out with artillery and surface-to-surface missiles. The major part of the shelling comes from inside the occupied Palestine and certain types of shelling emanate from Haddad's area because guns do not exceed the 155-mm type whereas we get shelled by 175-mm guns, surface-to-surface missiles, supersonic aircraft and helicopters.

"We have enough antiaircraft weapons to use against the Israeli aircraft. We also have missiles but they are not up to par with what states have. Fundamentally, aircraft must be fought with aircraft. Friendly aircraft take part in foiling the enemy air raids usually.

"Until 1976, al-'Urqub area witnessed the main activity of the military operations between the Palestinian forces and the hostile forces. But since 1977, the enemy has proceeded to shell and to create tension in the western and central areas because the shelling there causes harm and heavy losses, especially since those areas are more densely populated and contain the Palestinian refugee camps whereas only one Palestinian camp exists here. Because of all of this, the tension here has lessened.

"Here, the enemy clashes with fighters who inflict losses on him. So he retaliates by striking the populated areas to inflict heavier losses and balance his losses in the war. The enemy also shells those areas more heavily because the opportunity for exerting pressure on the revolution and on its relations with the masses is greater."



It is to be noted that the resistance's strategic positions in this area include the Kawkaba, Abu Qamhah, Hasbayya, 'Ayn Qina, Shuba and 'Ayan 'Ata heights which control the roads and axes for the Israeli army's advance toward al-'Urqub.

On the way to al-Kufayr, the village of former U.S. Senator James Abourezq, we saw a two-story Lebanese building built of concrete flying a white flag on its southern side to distinguish itself from the buildings of the fedayeen offices and to avoid the air raids of the Israeli aircraft!

From "Fatah land," we proceeded to the area separating it from the western sector, i.e. to the Sahmar-Yahmur axis which includes Zallaya, Qalya and the Bar'az and hawkaba heights. Captain Tariq, commander of the shock battalion of al-Yarmuk forces, said to us: "The nature of the fighting is totally different at present from what it was in the past, especially after the Lebanese war, the Palestinian-Israeli war of 1978 and the creation of the Sa'd Haddad mini-state that has given the Israelis the opportunity to act through an isolationist Lebanese faction because the Israelis move in the territories under Haddad's control as if they were moving in their own territories. The Israeli forces are present in Haddad's territories, in addition to their presence in Ruwaysat al-'Alam, Tallat al-Ramtha and al-'Abbasiyah which was occupied by the Israelis in the past.

"The positions of the joint forces are subjected to heavy and concentrated shelling with 175, 155 and 130-mm guns and with surface-to-surface missiles which we jokingly call 'the caliber you cannot hear.' The shelling comes fundamentally from Barwaz and Dibbin heights, located at a distance of 5.5 kilometers, where Israeli-isolationist artillery batteries comprising 155, 130 and 122-mm guns and French-made 120-mm mortars are deployed. Moreover, Marj'uyun and Dibbin are located at a distance of 6 to 7 kilometers from our positions. There is no military honor in the Israeli shelling which has focused on peaceful and populated villages such as Qalya, Zallaya, Sahmar and Mashgharah.

"In view of this situation, our forces return the fire and hit the Israeli settlements, especially (Kefar Yuval, Metola, Sharanshov and Vishkol) which are within the range of our fire. This has caused the enemy to lose his self-control and to use the air force against our Lebanese and Palestinian people daily and constantly.

"In the face of the air bombardment, we use our heavy and medium antiaircraft machineguns against the enemy aircraft. These weapons are ineffective in confronting modern aircraft with their technological capabilities. A Phantom aircraft hits the target from an altitude of 25,000 feet. However, our weapons do prevent enemy aircraft from hitting their targets accurately. In any case, we do not have antiaircraft missiles in this axis.

"Our strategic positions in this sector consist of frontline hills that we have been able to fortify well and in which we have dug tunnels and so the enemy fire has no impact on our fighters in them. From those hills, our

fighters can employ their weapons effectively and comfortably."

Two days later, the Israeli artillery opened fire and shelled a number of villages in the western al-Biq'a', including Sahmar, Yahmur and Qalya, until 1100. This Israeli shelling which also covered the outskirts of Kawkaba came in retaliation for shelling by the Palestinian resistance. At 0715 of the same morning, the Palestinian resistance had shelled the big Israeli radar stations located in Tallat Riyaq, near Metola settlement, with nearly 20 Grad missiles and with heavy artillery. Several fires broke out in the adjacent orchards and some shells fell inside Marj'uyun. A fire also broke out near Tallat al-Shurayqi in al-Khiyam and continued until the evening.

What is the Lebanese National Movement's contribution to the joint forces with the Palestinian resistance?

Answering this question, a resistance official in al-Nabatiyah said:

"We have National Movement fighters in every one of our positions north of al-Litani, beginning with al-Qa'qa'iyah Bridge in the west and ending with the village of al-Jarmaq in the northeast. In al-Nabatiyah area, the National Movement has supplied 150 fighters who fully man their positions all the time. These fighters belong to the Communist Party, the Social Nationalist Party, the Socialist Progressive Party and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party. The movement is also offering us 50 more fighters whom we cannot absorb in the joint forces at present. The movement also has other fighters engaged in self-defence [sic] tasks, especially in observation.

"At the same time, the National Movement's Political Council in the area participates effectively in settling the problems that arise among the inhabitants and the fighters. This council approves the compensations allocated for those sustaining war injuries and for their families, as well as the compensations for houses damaged by the war."

What are the observations that can be made in regard to the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon?

These observations are the following:

First, al-'Asifah forces, the military wing of Fatah Movement, constitute the backbone and skeleton of the military presence in the south, along with the fighters of the other fedayeen organizations and more than two battalions belonging to al-Qadisiyah forces and the Popular Liberation Forces of the Palestine Liberation Army. Al-Qadisiyah forces were stationed in Iraq previously but have now been redeployed [u'ida tashkiluha] in southern Lebanon.

Second, the resistance forces are turning into a modern regular army while the balance of the irregular popular army is maintained.

Third, there is a new generation of military commanders and fighters who belong to the "generation that will reach the sea," in Yasir 'Arafat's words. These are the fighters who were cubs a few years ago. 'Azmi al-Sughayyar in the western sector reminded me of Faruq Qaddumi (alias Abu Lutf), chairman of the PLO's Political Department when he was in Base 40 in the mountains of al-Salt, Jordan, with a difference between the military quality characterizing 'Azmi and the political quality characterizing Qaddumi at the time.

Fourth, the military commanders and cadres on the front are less tense and emotional than the political leaders and cadres outside the front. By the way, the former prefer the Marlboro cigarette whereas the latter prefer the Rothmans cigarette!

A fedayeen driver who likes jokes and food accompanied us on a part of our trip. He told us: Man eats to walk and does not walk to eat, adding: Armies march on their bellies. He then went on to say: What is the use of a rifle when its ammunition runs out?

Another fighter told him: You use the bayonet.

But the fedayeen driver was not convinced and went back to his essential point: "It all goes back to supplies."

Near al-Zahrani, a fighter was blowing on his flute the song "I passed by their house early in the evening but found them asleep and their lamp out." His flute playing produced a sound like that of a woman but the lament in his tune was that of a man!

We returned to Beirut.

There, the fingers of the General Command of the resistance were exchanging two cables:

The first from Abu-'Ammar to Abu Jihad: "We have received Kuwaiti information that Israel will move to occupy the south. Get ready."

The second was from Abu-Jihad to Abu 'Ammar: "We have taken the necessary measures."

From al-Nabatiyah to al-'Ayshiyah, our car followed the longer road and the one less exposed to shelling. The village is almost deserted. Its buildings are either hit or destroyed and its inhabitants have departed for Jizzin, a town, eastern Beirut and the areas of Byblos and Kasrawan. Most of the village youths are in al-Qulay'ah and Marj'uyun since the fedayeen stormed al-'Ayshiyah by force and in broad daylight in the middle of 1976. Nearly 12 old men and women are still in the village, living on their property, working in their farms and tending their herds.

Electricity, water and telephones are cut off in the village. It has no shop or pharmacy. Its only visitor is a priest who comes to it every Sunday and leads the remaining inhabitants in prayer.

The fedayeen supply the inhabitants with some foodstuffs, such as eggs and milk. They also provide the inhabitants with medical services, held them in the fields and visit them in their houses. The inhabitants move freely between al-'Ayshiyah and Jizzin without any harassment from the fedayeen.

Al-'Ayshiyah and the area around it form a strategic point for the resistance in the south. This is why both are subjected to Israeli air raids and Israeli artillery and missile shelling, in addition to shelling by the militias. Both al-'Ayshiyah and the area around it retaliate by shelling the Israeli settlements and positions inside the border strip.

We had the following interview with Abu al-Walid, commander of the third battalion of al-Yarmuk forces in the area:

[Question] What are the limits of the military confrontation between you on the one hand and the Israeli army and Haddad's militias on the other?

[Answer] The confrontation sector is broad and extends from Shubayl east to al-Jarmaq west, including al-Rihan, al-'Ayshiyah and Mazari'. Al-Litani River separates us from the enemy. We exchange shelling and we both carry out reconnaissance operations. The enemy hits the forest areas and the crop fields, especially the latter in order to set them afire and particularly in this summer season. The exchange of shelling harms the inhabitants in our area and in the area that the enemy controls. But Haddad is not responsible for the inhabitants in his area and this is why we hit Marj'uyun, al-Qulay'ah and Dayr Mimas infrequently.

[Question] Do you have effective antiaircraft means to use against the Israeli aircraft?

[Answer] Our antiaircraft weapons are effective and sufficient. But as a military man, I demand better weapons. We have sufficient training in our unit on the full and effective use of all types of ground and air [antiaircraft] weapons.

[Question] What is the strategic significance of al-'Ayshiyah area in the war between the resistance and the Lebanese National Movement on the one hand and Israel and Haddad's militias on the other?

[Answer] The isolationists and the Israelis aspire to reach Jizzin area via al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rihan and then to reach al-Shuf and split Lebanon along the middle.

This will give them the chance to isolate al-Nabatiyah, Sidon, Tyre and western al-Biqa' and to put them under their mercy.

They also aspire to achieve a spearhead penetration through 'Ayn al-Taniyah, Mashgharah, in which our forces are present, al-Muthallath, 'Aytanit and Saghbin, in which the Phalanges Party is present, to Zahlah. All these are Maronite villages. From Zahlah they aspire to penetrate to Qibb Ilyas and from there to Shtura.

They also aspire to reach Sidon by way of Rum.

[Question] Where are the Arab Deterrence Forces in the area deployed?

[Answer] An infantry platoon of these forces is stationed at the western entrance of al-'Ayshiyah and equipped with individual [light] weapons. This platoon was subjected to artillery shelling recently and a shell dropped at the door of its command. One of the deterrence forces' tank platoons is deployed in al-Rihan. The tanks are equipped with 12.7-[mm] DSHK machineguns.

We left the fedayeen official's office for the village and entered the house of Farid Nasr who had already invited his neighbors to meet with us. So most of the old men and women inhabiting the village gathered at his house.

We asked the gathering one question: What do you want?

They erupted as follows:

Nabihah Nasr Kasrawani: We want them [the fedayeen] to go away. We cannot get to our crops. My relatives and brothers have died. What is this life? Do I have to beg from Muslims and Druzes? I do not want this life. Screw it [sic]. I get there to plant the seeds and the shelling starts. I can no longer walk or take care of my children. I want to seek refuge in any old people's home.

Adele Kasrawani: This is the tragedy of all of us.

Nabihah: Let them give the fedayeen their rights. They shell us because the fedayeen are here. Let them give every man his share. They have made us and the Palestinians homeless. Let them conciliate us and the entire world. Israel is the cause of the catastrophe and it has ruined people's lives. As for my relatives, some of them are buried and the others have fled. I have no more patience. I have been patient for too long. Oh how sweet is death!

'Afifah Asmar Nasr: I have tobacco, olive and onion crops. (I started to crawl to get to them) but was afraid that a shrapnel would kill me and make people gloat over my death. I want to die. I have no heart to leave. If it kills me, then let it.

Nabihah: They have entrusted me with a plot of land planted with wheat and other crops. We went to harvest them and found them burnt, all 5 donums of them.

Marun Yusuf Hanna entered and I asked him: Where have you been?

He said: I was with the cows in the pastures. I took the cows to graze at 0700 and brought them back at dinner time. I have three cows, one that has just foaled and two others that are not pregnant. They are dry and have no milk. I live with a daughter and a young son. We have planted wheat and onions.



Yusuf Francis: I have a tobacco storehouse near the church that has been hit. There is a hole in its roof. It was burnt recently when the "village exploded." The tobacco field has been damaged. We live in fear and terror. I make my living from tobacco. (They burned my tobacco twice when it was about ready to be harvested).

'Afifah: They have cut the pine tree forest to ground level. The blow came from here. I wait for my children to send me something [to live on]. Who will protect us? We are living for lack of death. If they don't protect us, we will die. They [the fedayeen] feed us. We are starved, oppressed and hurt. We are living for lack of death. We don't have a drop of kerosene or any supplies. We need everything. We are not afraid of the "group."

Yusuf Marun: They hit the goat shed and shells landed all around it.

Asma Nasr: The government people can either kill us or give us life. We do not sleep in our homes at all. We sleep in the streets. There are no shelters. We are not afraid of the Palestinians. We do not know Sa'd Haddad nor (do we follow him). There is no difference to us between Ibn Ghali [sic] and the Israelis. The Israelis do not distinguish between us. Yes, we are afraid. If we hear the slightest noise we say they have come to kill us. If a cat passes by it scares us. We haven't seen anything yet.

Another woman: God help me.

'Afifah al-Asmar: The abbeys send us a kilogram of rice, a kilogram of sugar, a meat can and some macaroni.

All of them: The state has never advanced any aid.

One of them: The leaders eat the aid.

Yusuf al-Sha'ar, member of the Municipality Council, said: Our house near the road was hit for the first and the second time. We asked the deterrence force to move our belongings out of the house which is no longer fit for habitation. We live at my uncle's house and in daytime we (move around). There is no security in the fields. We are farmers, where can we hide in the fields? There is no driver to bring the crops here for threshing. I went four times in Fatah's jeep--may God give Fatah victory--to the dentist in al-Nabatiyah. The dentures are not ready yet. No driver will come here. I could not find the driver of the Fatah supply jeep, so I rented a cab from al-Nabatiyah to al-Jarmaq. I asked the driver to bring me to al-'Ayshiyah and he said he would not come here for 100 pounds. I am 72 years and cannot walk. I waited for Fatah's jeep in al-Jarmaq and came with it. There is no security on the road or in the fields and no aid or supplies came from the state or from the parties. I live with my wife. My children left during the incidents. Their homes have been destroyed. Fatah youths offer us bread and other supplies and we are very grateful to them. Our problem is from outside. We have not fled or evacuated. How can we continue to live in this situation? Is there

a state? If there is no state, we will seek refuge with whomever will protect us. We want to know to whom to complain. Let them take us down to the sea, up to heaven or to hell. If the guests did not care for us, we would die and nobody would know. Aircraft hover above us for 3 or 4 hours and the shelling goes on.

This was a Greek tragedy in al-'Ayshiyah, in southern Lebanon.

[20 Jul 79, pp 40-42]

[Text] It is Sunday and people are swimming on the beach of Tyre. Across from them, port four damaged boats, three of them blown up and one hit by Israeli shells. As for the ones blown up, it is not definite how the incident happened and whether they were blown up by frogmen or by some "local agents." One of these boats has only the tops of its masts showing above the water!

The port is frequented by a few fishermen, one of them a Palestinian. He said: "The cost of this net and boat is 22,000 Lebanese pounds. This is the first time I will sail since the net and the boat that I had owned were burnt in the port." A second, and older, fisherman said: "The cost of this net is 3,000 pounds. I have been working in the sea between Lebanon and Palestine for nearly 40 years. My daily income from fishing was 3,000 pounds. But this is the first time I will sail in 2 months because they open fire on us every time we set sail." Rida Badawi is a Lebanese fisherman who had arrived in the port from the sea with his son but without nets. He uses dynamite charges for fishing every day!

Traffic is light in the city and a little heavier on the beach. This is not due to the Sunday holiday but to the departure of 75 percent, and at times 90 percent, of the city's inhabitants who had reached 100,000 people. This evacuation occurs because the city of Tyre has been subjected to air raid and raids by Israeli military boats and to ground shelling with missiles and guns, especially on Wednesdays. It is hit by an average of one surface-to-surface missile daily.

However, the inhabitant's evacuation of the coastal city is not permanent. The evacuation may last for 2 days or 2 weeks, depending on how severe the Israeli blow is, and then drops in numbers. The evacuation is usually to Jiba' and Rum in Jizzin District or proceeds southward toward the area under the control of the U.N. emergency forces. The evacuation may also move northward to Sidon but no longer reaches Beirut because the savings of the evacuees have dwindled.

The security situation in the city is good. However, because of the failure to bolster the role of the government authority, the inhabitants do not feel sufficiently reassured and they stay in their homes most of the time. In any case, there are no noteworthy disputes or sectarian rancor.

Electricity supply is cut off from the city at times because of shelling. This was particularly the case when the high tension generator in al-Sukkarah area was destroyed and when help to repair the damage had to come from the Lebanon Electricity [Authority] in Sidon and Beirut. The water supply that flows to the city from the headsprings is cut off at times. The telephone lines with Beirut are always out of order and those linked with Sidon are out of order at times, especially in al-Raml Quarter after the blow dealt to this quarter by the Israeli artillery last April.

Medical services are not available and are not secure, despite the efforts of the International Red Cross, the Lebanese Red Cross and the government's emergency hospital. Kawkab Qahwaji, chairman of the International Red Cross in Tyre area, said: "The organization's ambulances have transported 13 people wounded seriously to Sidon hospitals. However, some of them died on the way." It is to be noted that the government hospital in Tyre is not equipped for major surgery.

The private schools operate regularly whereas teaching at the government schools has almost stopped. Sami Qasim Bahr, a 19-year old student of the Tyre High School, said: "We have not studied a single word for 4 months and nobody from the Ministry of Education has inquired about the students. Meanwhile, we have to sit for the high school diploma examinations shortly."

The port is closed now that the Israeli boats prevent ships from reaching it. In the past, the Israeli boats used to inspect ships in search of weapons and wanted people through examining the passenger lists. But now these boats direct ships to proceed to Sidon and Beirut ports. Israeli boats also prevent ships from getting to al-Sarafand port!

Foodstuffs reach Tyre by land route at present. Citrus and vegetable trade flourishes in the city. Economic activity is lively before noon, especially with the arrival of the inhabitants of the villages around Tyre. This activity stops in the afternoon and when there is shelling, of course.

Eighty percent of the city's youth, especially the professionals among them, have emigrated to work in the Arab countries, especially in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states. There are immigrants from Tyre who live in the Ivory Coast in Africa. Because demand for passports rose in the past to 500 applications daily, 90 percent of Tyre's inhabitants have passports.

On the afternoon of the following Thursday, the Israeli artillery shelled Tyre and its shells fell on the residential quarters and reached the port area. Four persons were wounded and two buildings were hit. Evacuation from the city rose to the highest rate ever, namely 90 percent!

Tyre has been exposed to two main Israeli blows. The first was in March 1978 when Israeli aircraft raided and bombarded the port area. The late Ilyas al-Muqayyid, "the oldest man in Tyre"--according to Salim 'Awad--was hit in al-Rahibat Quarter and killed with three of his sons. The aircraft missiles also

hit a two-story building in which the late Mary Jabbur, who had turned the building into a small hotel, was also hit. Mary was torn to pieces under the ruins of the building. A soldier and a student residing at the hotel were also wounded.

The second main blow came on the 25th of last April when the Israeli artillery opened concentrated fire on al-Raml Quarter for a period of 3 hours. Fourteen people were killed and 60 wounded.

One of the victims was Samir Zasih Bahr (16 years). He was hit near the bakery owned by his father and located in the lower part of a building in which he also had his house—a building in the old section of the quarter with its houses that are adjacent to each other. Samir was preparing to take his examinations for the Brevet [junior high] certificate and helping his father in the bakery.

We went to the victim's house and found there only Sami, one of Samir's 5 surviving brothers. Sami said: "The International Red Cross transported my brother Samir after he had been hit from the Tyre hospital to the Sidon hospital because the former has no resources. Samir died in the second hospital. My family is in Bhandun where they live in a house owned by a friend of ours. When I go to Bhandun my father has to come here because one of us has to be here to guard the house. The bakery has stopped working since we suffered the blow. My brother and the bakery were hit. The inhabitants of the quarter and of the city have declined in number. My family has relied on its savings. Some people live from day to day and others borrow. The situation is fearful. The Social Welfare Authority has only helped us with foodstuffs once. Our eldest brother is 21 years old and studies at the Lebanese University in Sidon and our youngest is 4 years old."

Rashid 'Awad (43 years) was a construction worker killed as a result of shrapnel which hit him in the head during the same blow that the Israeli artillery dealt to al-Raml Quarter. He had moved to the quarter from his home in al-Burj al-Shamali in search of security.

At the home of his brother Salim who is a grocer in the quarter, Rashid's mother said: "I had four sons. One of them is gone and three survive. Rashid fled with his family from the shelling and came here to be hit. He has 6 children, God help me. Rashid had taken the two oldest sons out of school because of his poor economic situation to help him with earning a living. The eldest of his sons is 19 years old and works as a refrigerator and washing machine repairman. The second is a tile layer. The remaining four are still in school and live with their mother in al-Burj al-Shamali. Their uncles help them."

Fatimah, Rashid's sister: "He could not survive the hit to reach the door of the house."

Nazmiyah, another sister: "We are from Tyre and we will not leave it, even though we have lost a youngman and the father of 6 children. We will not leave, whatever happens to us."

Bahiyah, another sister: "We are standing fast in the city, without work and without anything to do. What can people do? From where can they eat, from the walls? They either find a solution or they should give the people food. Our men have no money. If we had money, we would have fled the city."

At a fedayeen base located in an orange grove outside the city of Tyre, one of the fedayeen told me the story of their presence in the grove. He said: "At the beginning, the grove owner refused to permit us to take position in it. He said that he was about to cut off the grove's orange trees and to replace them by date palms which he had ordered from Egypt because a date palm does not require as much care, pruning and fertilizers as an orange tree and produces in its second year more than an orange tree does. He also said that he spends 150,000 Lebanese pounds annually to care for the grove.

"We asked him to try us in his orange grove for 10 days and he agreed. We have painted his house in the grove and have helped him care for the trees. So the owner sent the man in charge of the grove who ordered that an area of pine trees be cut off and who informed us at the same time that the grove owner has agreed to our stay in his grove." The fedayeen's tale ended here.

In a contrasting case, the owner of a house inside Tyre paid a fighter an "eviction fee" of 80,000 pounds to make him leave the house. The owner then proceeded to blow up the house.

Hasan al-Faqih, one of the owners of al-Khayzaran Restaraunt said that the Israeli commandos blew up one night 2 months earlier a beach house belonging to a certain family while its members were on their way back from an evening at the house of some friends. When al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the resistance forces in the south--the western sector--went to inspect the damage on the following day, the head of the family told him while standing in front of the ruins: "We want nothing. God preserve you and keep you above our head!"

A farmer from Arshaf told me that the village inhabitants were about to abandon it because they had no water and because their children had to go to and come from the Tibnin Elementary School, located at a distance of 3 kilometers from the village, on foot. But the fedayeen used a military vehicle to transport the children to and from the school daily, sent a water tanker to the village regularly and helped the farmers harvest their crops.

In Yahmur, western al-Biqa', electricity supply is interrupted constantly because the generator cannot withstand the pressure of the demand for power supply. The joint committee of the National Movement and the Palestinian resistance in the area decided to solve the problem for the inhabitants. It is now replacing the old generator, which has a capacity of 300-kilowatt



per hour, by a new generator with a capacity of 500-kilowatt per hour. Yahmur has no telephone lines. Telephone lines have not been cut off because of the war but have never existed in the area in the first place because Sahmar and Yahmur are located in the underprivileged area populated by the Shi'a.

Every Lebanese who is killed by the Israeli shelling or raids is declared by the Palestinian resistance as one of its martyrs. Therefore, his family is entitled to a compensation amounting to several thousand pounds and a monthly stipend of nearly 200 pounds. But who has said that all the Lebanese wish to become martyrs for the sake of the Palestinian resistance?

Moreover, Lebanese owners of houses damaged or destroyed as a result of shelling are also paid a compensation. The resistance official in al-Nabatiyah told me: "We pay 100 percent compensation to the owners of houses damaged as a result of the presence of our offices or bases and 50 percent compensation to the owners of other houses. In Tyre, which was hit by Israeli missiles and artillery less than 2 months ago, the resistance has paid compensations amounting to nearly one million pounds. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has said: 'In the south, our partners in blood are also our partners in money.'"

This is why the sight of the young former we saw wearing a military uniform and the fedayeen headcover and driving a donkey loaded with crops in 'Aramta was uncommon, but not surprising.

In Qinya, inside Fatah land, I noticed that the fedayeen do not drive down the village's main road to Shib'a so as to avoid evoking the fear of the inhabitants of Israeli air raids.

In Hashayya, which we entered in the afternoon after crossing a roadblock of the "Popular Security," we went to the home of Bahij Shams, the mayor. He was not at home but in a nearby coffee shop. There, we asked him a number of questions which he answered in the following manner in the presence of Faris Zuwayhid, the Municipal Council member who is at the same time a member of the National Movement, and of another member in the National Movement:

[Question] What is the town's population at present?

[Answer] Ten thousand people.

[Question] What is the number of those absent from it?

[Answer] Eight thousand people.

[Question] What is the number of fatalities?

[Answer] Forty-five martyrs who fell as a result of the Israeli artillery and air shelling.

[Question] How is the electricity situation?

[Answer] Cut off because of shelling.

[Question] The water situation?

[Answer] Meager. We let the water flow during the day and cut it off at night so that it may last.

[Question] The telephone situation?

[Answer] It has been cut off for almost 4 years.

[Question] The situation of food supplies?

[Answer] Secure.

[Question] How is the security situation in the town?

[Answer] The citizens are united in solidarity. There are members of the Phalanges and of the Liberals here but no member of the other parties in the National Movement has hurt them. Moreover, the former have caused no harm. We are proud of this spirit that is prevalent among the citizens of Hasbayya. We have one common enemy, namely Israel. This enemy's guns shelled us this morning and yesterday evening. At times, the shelling goes on for 10 successive days.

On the morning of the following Monday, shells poured down on Hasbayya. A nurse was killed, four persons were wounded and heavy damage was inflicted on a number of buildings, houses, cars and on the internal electricity network. Fires also broke out in the olive groves and wheat fields within the vicinity of the town.

In Sidon, we asked al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement:

Have the fedayeen actually withdrawn from the southern towns and villages?

[Answer] There has been complete withdrawal from Sidon. There are no armed elements, no armed manifestations and no military offices, except for the sole office of the Joint Command. As for the internal Sidon, the offices were closed long ago. Withdrawal has also been complete from Tyre. Al-Nabatiya is located in a military area targeted by the Israeli enemy. There, we abide by the rule of not appearing with weapons or in military uniform among the people. In the other southern villages, we respect the sentiments of the people and there are no armed manifestations. We also guarantee their inhabitants full freedom of movement in their areas.

[Question] The Palestinian resistance has adopted its decision to withdraw from the south in order to defuse the Israeli war against it and out of its desire to improve its relations with the citizens of the south. Despite this, I saw two fedayeen roaming the Monday market in al-Nabatiyah in their military uniform.

[Answer] This is a violation for which they are punished under normal circumstances.

[Question] (I then asked him a question which I addressed to all the military commanders of the Palestinian resistance in the south) Is the Palestinian resistance usurping the will of the Lebanese in the south and what is the kind of relation prevailing among the two sides?

[Answer] We are tied to the Lebanese masses by relations of common struggle. We appreciate the enormous losses that the southern masses, along with the Palestinian masses, have shouldered with their steadfastness and their confrontation of the plot against the revolution and against southern Lebanon.

Fifteen southern villages are living without water because of the (damage) caused to the water pumps supplying these villages with water from the border strip. The National Movement and the revolution are exerting concerted efforts to secure the water needs of these villages. Moreover, all the southern citizens, be they war patients or ordinary patients, have medical insurance in the revolution hospitals and in the clinics of the revolution and of the National Movement.

The revolution also advances urgent aid to all the Lebanese civilian martyrs and to others, in addition to the compensations paid immediately to the owners of damaged houses.

Shelter shelters are also dug and built for all people in cities like Tyre and al-Nabatiyah and in the neighboring villages. As for the border villages that are difficult to reach, the revolution supplies them with all the construction materials to build shelters.

At the security level, we are proud of the stable security conditions in comparison to the security conditions prevailing in Beirut and Tripoli. Control over the security situation in the south is complete and this control is exercised in the name of the National Movement. The bolstered security has helped the economic life of Sidon to flourish. The city now has offices for various banks and big investments are made in it. Despite this, we prohibit the Lebanese organizations and the National Movement parties from collecting donations in the city.

We are also exerting efforts to bolster our struggle relations with our Shi'ite brothers, especially since some of them are fighters in our ranks. The sincere and struggling Shi'ite clergymen are bound to the strugglers in Fatah ranks by relations of friendship and fraternity. The honorable position taken by the Shi'a against the policy of Maj Sa'd Haddad and of Israel in al-Khiyam,

Marj'uyun, al-Tayyibah, Markaba and Hula in the border strip is a noteworthy position. It is the position of national sentiment and of belonging to Lebanon. At the same time, not a single Shi'ite leader has declared a stand of hostility toward the revolution in the south. There are blood relations between the Palestinian and the Lebanese in the south. Moreover, the triumph of the Iranian revolution, the position of Ayatollah Khomeyni toward the Palestinian revolution and the common relations between the two revolutions have left a positive impact on our relations with the south. Because of all of this, it is difficult to break the Palestinian-Lebanese relations in the south. They are much stronger than some people imagine.

In the western sector, we accidentally encountered a delegation of U.S. blacks touring the south as part of their visit to the resistance. One of the delegation members pays visits to the resistance every 5 months. Another member, from Ohio, asked Joseph Nakhlah, AL-HAWADITH photographer, about the performance of the lenses of the cameras he was carrying. The delegation toured the south in two big cars and was accompanied by an information official from the resistance.

'Azni al-Sughayyar, commander of Abu-Yusuf al-Najjar battalion of al-Yarmak forces, told us at a fedayeen base in a lemon grove located several kilometers from Tyre: "They have claimed that Tyre has been hit because of the presence of the fedayeen offices in it. The general commander's decisions to withdraw from the city were implemented in less than 24 hours. This has been attested to by an inspection committee formed by al-Hajj Isma'il. No military manifestation was left in Tyre. Despite this, the Israeli enemy hit it repeatedly afterwards. As you can see, we are at a distance of 5 to 6 kilometers from Tyre and we stay here with the approval of the grove owner. We help him in irrigation and in picking the citrus fruits for the lack of workers.

"A compensation committee has been appointed by al-Hajj Isma'il. It consists of a civil engineer, an agricultural engineer and a number of commanders of the resistance military units. This committee has estimated the damage caused to orchards and buildings and has paid a large part of the compensations so far.

"Our relations with the southern citizens are better now than ever before. The steadfastness of the remaining people is greater and the rate of emigration is less. The people build shelters and then ask us to inspect them to make sure of their ability to provide protection. The people are also asking us to build more shelters and urge us persistently to stand fast on their land. Moreover, the citizens of various quarters ask us for weapons and we supply them. They appoint an official from among them to be in charge of the security and safety of each quarter. The villages that are hit move toward the National Movement and away from Sa'd Haddad. This National Movement is present with us in all parts of Lebanon."

Captain Marawan, the deputy commander of al-Jarmaq battalion, told us: "Israel has failed to exert pressure through its shells and missiles on the moral relations between the revolution and the Lebanese masses in the south for the following reasons:

"First, there is at the general Lebanese level, even at the traditional level, condemnation of the Zionist position in the south. No political force in the south has supported the Zionist position.

"Second, the popular position is aware of the real and constant internal and material objectives of the Zionist enemy in the south and in the border strip.

"Third, Sa'd Haddad's mission has not been confined to the border strip--a mission which persists in its humiliating political attack against Bar'ashit, Majdal Silt, Shaqra and al-Mansuri in the eastern sector.

"Fourth, the public opinion in the south in particular is aware that the revolution position is a position of defense. With its presence, the revolution constitutes an element of reassurance against Haddad, the isolationists and Israel and an element for fighting their domination.

"Fifth, the Lebanese people in the south have been exposed to enormous pressures. We have shared our bread with them. However, the political factor and not the economic factor is what decides their position toward us and toward the general situation.

"Sixth, the people still remember the words of Ayatollah Khomeyni and his constant position toward the Palestinian cause and struggle and his religious ruling that holds those who deal with Israel as infidel.

"Seventh, the revolution has placed its humble resources at the disposal of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon.

"Eighth, in the incidents of 1958, weapons used to reach Jabal 'Amil area from Syria and the inhabitants of this area had preceded the fedayeen in bearing the arms to confront the same enemies and the same sides.

"Ninth, the southerners and our people went through the March 1978 war together and saw that the revolution did not hold back in defending every rock in the south, despite its small resources. After taking its decision to fight and to stand fast, the revolution stood for 8 days fighting back the brunt of the Zionist army. This stance bolstered the trust between the revolution and our people in the south.

"Tenth, the southerners see that their small area is the only hot front in the entire Arab area. Who says that they are not proud, despite all the military pressures, that they are in the forefront position of defending the Arab nation?

"Therefore, a positive quality predominates our relations with the Lebanese masses in the south.

"Otherwise, the southerners would have raised their voices in our face. They are courageous and free and they refuse to have us dictate any position to



them. When Haddad entered Shaqra, he asked its inhabitants to support the Free Lebanon. But they told him, despite his tanks and his forces: We do not bless it. When Haddad asked them to form a delegation to go to Majdal Silm to ask it to surrender, they told him: Majdal Silm is in front of you."

In Sahmar, a slogan painted on the walls says: "God is our God, Khomeyni is our leader and 'Arafat is our commander." Near Shamar, I met with Captain Tariq, deputy commander of the second shock battalion of al-Yarmuk forces. I asked him the same question: Do the Palestinians usurp the will of the Lebanese in Patah land?

He answered: "All the Lebanese masses in the area are patriotic masses. This is why we have had no problems with them."

In Sighbin, there are members of the Phalanges and Liberals parties who bear arms and train on arms. The Arab Deterrence Forces are deployed near the village. I asked Captain Tariq: Do you travel on the Sighbin road?

[Answer] We do not use the road and we have no contacts with the village inhabitants. The road passing through their villages is longer than the road we use!

[27 Jul 79, pp 43-46]

[Text] In Shaqra, located in the southeastern tip of the area of the U.N. emergency forces jurisdiction in southern Lebanon, the children gather around the village's big pond, rather swamp, while the women wash their domestic utensils in the swamp.

From the command camp of the Irish battalion deployed on a hill at the tip of the village, a ravine can be seen at a very short distance to the east. This ravine separates the area of the U.N. forces jurisdiction from the border strip controlled by Sa'd Haddad's forces--a strip which Haddad declared to be an "independent entity" or a mini-state a few months ago.

On the first hill inside the border strip, the two initials of the United Nations are carved in English. When we expressed our astonishment at this sight to the camp commander, he said that the Irish battalion has five such positions inside Haddad's mini-state, the farthest in Mihbab toward which the Irish commander pointed and which seemed to be surrounded by trees.

We got there [Shaqra] from the observation point of the Fiji battalion--a point located on the coastal road at a distance of nearly 15 kilometers from Tyre. We arrived through a rugged, nearly 7-kilometer long road between al-Hanivah and Zibkin after passing through the villages of Ard al-Mahraqah, Kafra, Haris, Hadatha and 'Ayta al-Zutt on an asphalted road full of potholes.

The Irish battalion command camp--the battalion has another camp behind a rocky hill in Majdal Silm to the west--is painted white, and so are the military vehicles in the camp which includes a number of tents.

The first thing we saw in the camp was soldiers playing volleyball enthusiastically. This is the favorite game of the officers and soldiers of the U.N. forces in the south because all is needed for it is a small area of level land, a net, two vertical posts and a handball. (Headlong) is the favorite popular game of the Irish. It is similar to hockey. But to play this game, a field with an area of 100 by 80 meters planted with turf is needed. The camp commander has a stick for this game, for memory.

Eighty seven soldiers, out of a total of 625 soldiers comprising the Irish battalion, live in this camp. In one of the tents, some were playing billiards and a couple were playing darts. In the same tent, there is a cafeteria, a bar and a television set.

Another tent is used as a kitchen. Two soldiers were preparing dessert made with oranges. On the fire, there was a pot with cabbage leaves in it.

The medical officer was not in the camp. His commander said that he had gone to Shaqra to examine the inhabitants and write the prescriptions needed for the ailments of the old people, the most prevalent of which are rheumatism and back pains.

In the camp yard, two soldiers were having a sunbath, each lying on a long and simple military chair. Another soldier was carving pieces out of a small watermelon with a knife and eating them.

In each of the sleeping tents, there was furniture for two soldiers. The commander said that one third the battalion members sleep during the day in houses rented from the inhabitants. At the edge of the camp, there are two prefabricated houses with which the camp was recently supplied. Each house can accommodate 18 persons.

A Lebanese newspaper vendor, named Muhammad Fawwaz, entered the camp. We had seen him earlier in the officers cafeteria of the Irish battalion in Tiberin, where we had also seen the only woman--a member of the International Red Cross--in the area under the jurisdiction of U.N. forces. Fawwaz was selling the (IKE), a Lebanese paper, the GUARDIAN, DAILY MIRROR, DAILY TELEGRAPH, DAILY EXPRESS, HERALD TRIBUNE, TIME, NEWSWEEK, and MONDAY MORNING (a Lebanese paper). He uses a motorcycle to travel between the camps of the U.N. battalions. He also sells the Arabic-language Lebanese newspapers to the area's inhabitants. It is said that he also sells the JERUSALEM POST, the English-language Israeli newspaper, to the U.N. troops. Speaking of him, the camp commander said: "He comes under shelling or in normal conditions. We know him. Should he fail to appear on any day, then this means that the situation is very bad." Thus Muhammad Fawwaz, the Lebanese newspaper vendor, constitutes the thermometer of peace and war in the area under the jurisdiction of the U.N. forces.

LT Col Doyle (Gavin), the director of information of Irish artillery battalion No. 43, spoke to us in the presence of (Taymur Joxil), the director of the U.N.

information in al-Naqurah, about the living conditions of the military personnel in his battalion. He said:

"The first difficulty encountered by the soldier is adaptation to the weather because the Irish soldier comes from a cold and damp weather to the hot and dry weather of southern Lebanon. The soldier needs time to adapt to the new weather and has to take salt pills at the beginning due to increased perspiration. But this problem is solved after sometime.

"The second difficulty is adjusting to the food, especially the need to sterilize vegetables and fruits to make them sanitary.

"The third difficulty is the harassment he receives from both sides of the conflict. The soldier finds it difficult to influence both sides, to assure them that he is neutral and that he is here to preserve peace and not to launch war against any side. For example, the "fait accompli forces" of Haddad shell our positions or close to them without any prior warning and without any justification.

"On the other hand, we are harassed by the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. It is undisciplined and it shells close to the Fijl battalion.

"In both cases, we have to exercise self-restraint, regardless of the price, and have to maintain our neutrality.

"This is in addition to the maltreatment we receive from the press which accuses us of not being neutral at times and of cooperating with one side at the expense of the other.

"We also have to preserve the people's trust in us, especially when they are subjected to shelling. They do not understand why we don't answer the fire. At times, they protest our stance and stage demonstrations against our ineffectiveness."

[Question] Is it true that you have orders to open fire?

[Answer] We can open fire in self-defense and under extremely critical conditions.

[Jexil] (Interloping) There is also a technical reason for our not returning the fire. We cannot answer guns with machineguns. Moreover, if our shooting results in killing civilians, we will have destroyed the role we are performing.

[Question] How is the U.N. trooper selected to serve in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] On the basis of volunteering and after being subjected to a thorough medical examination, after his military record is scrutinized carefully and after his social talents are checked.

[Question] How long does he stay in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] For 6 months.

[Question] What vacations is he given?

[Answer] The soldier gets a pass for 2.5 days. The troops spend this vacation on the beach in Israel, especially in Natanya and Naharya.

After serving for 3 months, the soldier is entitled to a 15-day leave. Each battalion has its own way of spending this vacation. The Irish go to Israel, Cyprus, Rhodes and Italy. We are now studying the possibility of spending this vacation in our homeland, as the other battalions do, because of the uncertain situation here--a situation that changes from day to day.

[Question] What are the trooper's means of recreation?

[Answer] Sports, indoor games and movies. The social welfare officer is in al-Naqurah and he is the one who provides the means of recreation to the soldiers.

[Question] How does the soldier manage without the company of women?

[Answer] Most of the soldiers are married. When one of them leaves his wife behind, he throws a doubled responsibility on her shoulders, namely that of a father in addition to that of managing household affairs.

(At this time, the commander was brushing away nearly six flies from his face and head).

(He went on to say) There was a postal strike in our country which lasted nearly 4 months and which ended only yesterday. Throughout this period, we have received no letters from our families or our friends. This situation subjected us to a strong psychological stress, especially since the letter received from home and from the family is very important to the soldier.

[Question] Why does the U.N. soldier choose to come to southern Lebanon?

[Answer] To escape boredom in his country. Moreover, our service in the United Nations gives us the opportunity to visit Jerusalem and Bethlehem, especially since we are Catholic and since it is difficult for us to pay the expenses of visiting the "holy land." There is also the challenge of working within the framework of the provisional U.N. emergency forces in Lebanon, i.e. the challenge of a foreign mission in a foreign country. This is of importance to world peace.

Leaving modern cities is a personal decision that each of us makes when he chooses soldierhood. Before coming here and in the service in our homeland we were performing routine tasks. But here the situation is different and gives us the opportunity for change. Change is the reason why we selected military service as a profession in the first phase.

Here, we have come to love the sun of southern Lebanon and the hospitality of the inhabitants.

[Question] What is the difference between the U.N. troops and mercenaries?

[Joxil] Mercenaries launch wars whereas we safeguard peace. The mercenary's main incentive for doing his work is money. In our case, the soldier collects a wage of \$1.28 daily, which is hardly enough to buy a pack of cigarettes. Our troops are paid the same wages while serving in their own country. Some battalions pay higher wages than those paid to the army at home. However, this additional pay is not enough to constitute an incentive for coming here.

[Cavin] Moreover, mercenary soldiers shift their loyalties from one side to any other side that pays them more.

[Question] But 25 of your troops have died in southern Lebanon for the sake of others and outside their homeland.

[Answer] The U.N. soldier comes here to preserve the peace and he is not supposed to be fired at by any of the parties that approved his coming to this country.

[Joxil] One thousand Turkish troops were killed within the framework of the U.N. forces that went to Korea. They felt that they were fighting for their homeland.

To this dialogue, another Irish officer, added: "The soldier usually learns how to interpret events. But it is difficult to do so here, especially in the wake of the threats made recently by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and in the wake of the recent dogfights between the Syrian and Israeli aircraft in the skies of al-Damur. This is why the situation here is brittle, can change at any time and a series of unexpected events may happen.

We entered the Tibnin clinic which is run by the Irish battalion. The Lebanese government is demanding that this clinic be restored to it so that it may use it to provide medical services to the Lebanese according to cards which they acquire from the offices of the Ministry of Health in Sidon!

In the first room, which contains several beds, there are two soldiers who were wounded during daily action. One of them was writing a letter to send home and the second, younger in age, was reading a book.

In another room, there was a dentist working on the mouth of one soldier while another soldier was waiting inside the room and others were waiting outside it.

The medical officer in charge of the clinic said: "We have no surgeon here but we do have one in al-Naqurah. We have no optomologist either. We offer



our services to the soldiers in the afternoon and to the Lebanese civilians from 0800 to 1100 in the morning. An average of 10 Lebanese patients come to us daily when they miss the Lebanese physician in the first floor. We give them a medical examination and provide medicines to those who cannot afford to purchase them from pharmacies. We have transferred three Lebanese civilian casualties to al-Naqurah and Sidon where they underwent surgery."

Haris has transformed its shops to meet the demand of the Dutch battalion's troops. These shops sell radio-cassette equipment, computers, recording tapes, Arab headcovers, water pipes and T-shirts bearing the name of Lebanon and the flags of Lebanon and of the Netherlands. Some shops have been turned to coffee shops for the Dutch troops who love beer. A restaurant in the village was hanging a big sign above its door saying: "We serve Dutch dishes!"

The Dutch battalion's command in Haris is in a mansion built in the village. This command supervises the work of 800 troops. Inside its offices, we found on the open door of one of its closets the pictures of naked women, perhaps torn out of the U.S. PLAYBOY magazine.

Maj George (Sternecker), the information officer, answered our questions. He said: "Our troops consist of both volunteers and draftees. Our battalion is distinguished by the fact that it has armored troop carriers. We work around the clock. One half our troops sleep in tents erected over concrete floors that we have built and the other half sleep in buildings in the village. At the outset, we had one central kitchen and we found it difficult to supply the food to our units at the right time and uniformly warm. We have now resorted to the system of multiple kitchens. This system is beneficial to the units in remote areas. Some of the troops eat in popular restaurants or at the houses of some families who also take care of the soldier's laundry for a few Lebanese pounds.

"We have set aside 6 hours daily for recreation which includes television and video-taped films that we get from the Netherlands. A soldier in the command can see a new film every day and a soldier stationed in remote areas can see a new film every week. We also play some indoor games and have equipment to develop films.

"(Tarming) is a group national sport which we play. We also hold athletic tournaments among our soldiers and award prizes at their conclusion. Our soldiers also go to the positions of the Fiji battalion and play games with its soldiers. Some of the Fiji battalion's troops speak a little English or a little French and the others resort to hand and foot gestures to express themselves to the soldiers of the other battalions.

"We have masons, carpenters and painters in the battalion. Moreover, some of the soldiers engage in these crafts as a hobby. The time here is suitable for them mentally [sic].

"The Arab or Lebanese families here offer our soldiers coffee and sweets. The inhabitants here are hospitable. Two days after my arrival here, I had dinner at the home of a Lebanese family in response to the family's invitation."

On the way to the battalion's garage where we saw 10 soldiers repairing trucks and jeeps, a Lebanese army convoy comprising five trucks and two jeeps passed along the public road. It had come to replace another Lebanese army force stationed in a nearby position.

At a house inhabited by the Dutch soldiers in Haris, we entered a room where there were three soldiers playing poker and drinking Dutch beer. The youngest among them was Alfred (Kross), a 19-year old private, with whom we had the following interview:

[Question] Why did you come to southern Lebanon?

[Answer] It was not of my own volition. I was sent to Lebanon (a draftee).

[Question] What do you miss here?

[Answer] Numerous means of comfort available in the Netherlands, even though I am from a rural area.

[Question] When did you come to Lebanon?

[Answer] On the 10th of March.

[Question] What do you do?

[Answer] I work in the canteen, not in the military patrols.

[Question] What is the name of your girlfriend back home?

[Answer] Lily Morris.

[Question] What are your means of recreation here?

[Answer] I went on a two-week vacation to Israel. We see a movie every night. We also watch video-taped films.

[Question] Does the money incentive unite the U.N. soldier and the mercenary soldier?

[Answer] So so. Fifty percent.

The Fiji battalion is stationed in the easternmost part of the U.N. forces area. We passed by it before getting to the Dutch and the Irish battalions. However, this battalion was on the alert because of frictions with the fedayeen in Tyre area. The fedayeen had opened fire on the areas adjacent to

the battalion on the coast on the morning of the previous day. Despite this, some of its soldiers were bathing, washing their clothes or resting. One of them was tending a rabbit that entered the U.N. forces area from nearby farms. The Fiji troops go swimming and the inhabitant's children join them at times. Some of them are upset with their government because it takes away two thirds the wages that the soldiers get from the United Nations every month, or the equivalent of 900 dollars.

The U.N. forces are in charge of the human and living conditions of the inhabitants in their area. So what has been done at this level?

Staff Brig Gen Krishnan S. Taba, officer in charge of the human affairs section of the General Command in al-Naqurah, answered the question as follows:

"The human affairs section of the provisional U.N. forces in Lebanon was formed with the formation of this force. Its task is to restore the social and economic conditions of southern Lebanon to what they used to be before the war. The inhabitants lack water and electricity. Their buildings and roads need to be repaired. Schools and hospitals have to be supplied. It is also our department's duty to remove and defuse mines, to facilitate the exchange of prisoners and to return the missing.

"We have begun to implement our tasks in those spheres in cooperation with the U.N. Development Program and with the other U.N. agencies concerned. We started by securing water supplies. We have replaced the damaged water pump in Rahwat Tibnin and we are working to install pumps and to supply water to al-Tayyibah and Marj'uyun.

"But our work is delayed because the Lebanese government does not consider this matter urgent. Moreover, the government's contribution to road repairs is negligible.

"A part of the U.N. forces lives in buildings owned by the inhabitants. The Lebanese government had pledged to pay our housing rent to the building owners but has not done so yet."

Jawlit: "This situation harms our public relations with the local residents and hampers the U.N. forces' performance of their tasks."

Taba: "We offer medical services to the residents through the Irish battalion in Tibnin where the Lebanese government has assigned just one physician. We also have two mobile medical teams in Tibnin and Tayr and we have medical officers in the various battalions. However, all of them are not enough to treat the numerous ailments from which the inhabitants suffer.

"We have been able to facilitate the exchange of prisoners on both sides at the rate of one prisoner released every 2 weeks. We have also transferred five corpses between the two sides.

"The Ministry of Education has also asked us to secure the conducting of the baccalaureat [high school] examinations for residents of the border strip in al-Naqurah. We have made the necessary preparations for this task, including the required lists and the means for the work of the teachers and secretaries. We don't know why the examination was not given on schedule in al-Naqurah."

Near Tibnin, I found an orphanage containing 20 children, 14 boys and 6 girls, called the Children's Home. It belongs to the Divine Care Organization which is under the supervision of Father 'Afif 'Usayran. The U.N. forces aid the orphanage financially with donations from the troops and with other services. Three persons--Sabah Khalil, a nurse and a Frenchman--work in the orphanage. The orphans' families were victims of the war or of personal accidents. The children are from Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, Yarin, Jamajimah and Safad in the area of the U.N. forces operations.

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CSO: 4802

MAURITANIA TO PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN SAHARA

Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Aug 79 p 5

[Article by Ahmed-Baba-Miske, former secretary general of the Nahda (Mauritania), former member of the Political Bureau of the POLISARIO Front: "The Path of Reconciliation"]

[Text] The signing of a Mauritanian-Saharan peace agreement puts an end to an aberration that lasted 4 years, a period of time during which the Islamic Republic of Mauritania seriously went back on its word, consenting to betray -- the term used in our country -- blood ties for the sake of a self-seeking friendship. The courageous and responsible new policy adopted by the Military Committee of National Welfare and the Mauritanian Government and applied under the leadership of Prime Minister Ould Haidallah deserves to be hailed and supported by all patriotic forces. It expresses and translates into action the aspirations of nearly all of the Mauritanian people. In addition, it pushes aside the movement of 10 July (President Moktar Ould Daddah was ousted on 9-10 July 1978), which had been handicapped by a burdensome past and the numerous obstacles strewn in its path. It also gives a decisive boost to the march on which Mauritania has embarked since the fall of the old regime, a march toward the restoration of its sovereignty and dignity. Above all, it opens the path to the reconciliation of brothers: the Mauritaniens and the Saharans, whom everything unites.

I am especially happy, not only because I have for a long time devoted myself exclusively to this reconciliation -- given the profound ties I have on both sides -- but also because it is the only possible path for general peace in the region, even if more unsettling events should occur.

It is obvious that the emancipation of Mauritania goes against Rabat's strategy, but how can one doubt that the Moroccan leaders will be careful not to go too far, to risk the future? They actually have no interest in opening up an additional front in the south: Without mentioning the diplomatic disadvantages, the expeditionary corps have become prohibitively expensive, even for the front-ranking powers. Furthermore, to face a rebellious Mauritania, one would have to multiply the costs of war, already barely tolerable, ten times over, and how could this be done?



This is all the more true inasmuch as Morocco does not have to fear any overturned alliance that would shift Mauritania from one dependency to another. The most important achievement of 10 July was precisely the rejection of any enfeoffment, which does not mean all cooperation. Mauritania has a crucial role to play in the region, that of an element of balance between highly diverse regions and countries. The fact that it would be an element of balance does not mean that it would be a dead weight or a passive prey that would let itself be buffeted, pulled apart or drawn down by dominant trends. It can and must be a vigorous element of balance and rapprochement. At the risk of appearing presumptuous, I would say that if it imposes on itself the discipline needed to accede to this role (naturally, this role must not get in the way of a concern that must remain a priority for Mauritania: never again allowing the endangerment of the natural bonds which unite the two brother nations, the Mauritaniens and the Saharans, bonds that were so gravely injured by the criminal adventure of 1975), then Mauritania will in the future (in a few months, a year?) be the arbiter in the best position to successfully play a helpful role in a conflict from which it will have succeeded in extracting itself, while adding to its old privileged friendships new ones not tainted by conformity.

While Morocco must accept this new fact, which in the final analysis will not be to its detriment once it is in a position -- mainly referring to its domestic problems -- to face the difficult battle of peace, another country, France, must do more. Given its privileged relations with Rabat and Nouakchott, it can help to attenuate the clashes and overcome bitterness in order to preserve what is essential. This is all the more true since the only alternative would be hazardous and risky: Another attempt at destabilization tending to prevent the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from completing an evolution desired by the vast majority of its people (including the army) would, if successful, lead to serious convulsions and very likely to a difficult people's war of liberation that could not fail to affect certain neighbors. In the search for peace, France has a role to play that will be much more beneficial to its image and influence than the considerable role it previously played in favor of war.

Another common friend of Nouakchott and Rabat can play a useful role of appeasement: Senegal and its president, Leopold Sedar Senghor. Senegal cannot fail to be very concerned by everything that happens in Mauritania and it has much better things to do than to be content to lend unconditional support to the quarrel of one of the protagonists.

## BOUCETTA SURPRISED BY SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 79 LD

[Text] M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, made a statement before the House of Deputies Commission for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Borders and National Defense on the statement made by the Spanish foreign minister. The minister of state expressed surprise that such a statement was made by an official who knows that Spanish international obligations in the region ended on 28 February 1976 in accordance with the joint communique issued in Rabat following the visit of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I to Morocco.

The minister of state added that if the statement of Mr Oreja expressed an official attitude it is regrettable that the person who made the statement did not fully appreciate his responsibility and it would be regrettable if this statement should enter the context of maintaining political balance among the various Spanish parties at the expense of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The minister of state confirmed that our recovery of Wadi al-Dhahab was legal and legitimate since Mauritania had abandoned this province, having disavowed its obligations with Morocco. It also came in response to the desire of the inhabitants who expressed spontaneously their Moroccan nature and their desire to return to the motherland. The minister pointed out that the Madrid agreement from its political aspect achieved its objectives on 28 February 1976, because its political validity was limited [word indistinct] between the day on which it was signed, 14 November 1975, and 28 February 1976, the day on which the Spanish presence came to an end. Thus this agreement could not continue to be a source of (?distortion) in relation to us, especially since the completion of our territorial unity is an internal matter and we allow no one to interfere in our internal affairs.

On this occasion the minister of state explained that the call addressed by his majesty to France and Spain, the two countries which occupied Morocco and which know the reality of the unity of Moroccan land, does not mean that Spain has the right to interfere in our internal affairs. His majesty's call is a call for France and Spain to give a historical testimony, nothing less and nothing more.

M'hamed Boucetta expressed the belief that Moroccan-Spanish relations would steer away from these contradictions in the interests of the two peoples, confirming on this occasion that Mr Oreja's statements with their distortion of facts and of legal and international data and the open interference in our internal affairs would push Morocco toward determining its relations with Spain in the light of those statements.

CSO: 4402

## MOROCCO

### 'LE MATIN DU SAHARA' SAYS MOROCCO READY FOR DIALOG WITH ALGERIA

Paris AFP in French 1158 GMT 24 Aug 79 AB

[Text] Rabat, 24 Aug (AFP)--Morocco is ready to take up dialog with Algeria, an editorial of a Moroccan daily, LE MATIN DU SAHARA, stated on Friday morning.

Writing under the heading "Proposals for Reconciliation," the managing director of the paper and former minister close to the king's palace, Mr Ahmed Alaoui, took up the conciliatory proposals to Algiers contained in King Hassan II's press conference on Sunday in Fes.

The Moroccan monarch had declared, among other things, that the chances of a dialog with President Chadli remain the same as with the late President Boumedienne, perhaps even better.

"The restoration of peace, stability, understanding and cooperation between the two countries lies in the hands of Algeria," writes Mr Alaoui, who also adds: "To seal this reconciliation, the King did not hesitate to reaffirm his loyalty to the accords signed with Algeria, especially those concerning border disputes, demarcation of borders and notably the Tindouf case."

Mr Alaoui recalled that the treaty of Ifrane in January 1969 ended in normalizing relations between the two countries, relations which had become strained since the 1963 conflict. The spirit of this treaty was to prepare the setting up of a great united and fraternal Maghreb Arabic region, Mr Alaoui stressed.

The conventions signed, the editorialist continued, envisaged the accomplishment of common projects such as the oriental cement works, the passage across Morocco of the pipeline to Europe and the establishment of joint companies, especially for the exploitation of iron ore from the Gara J'illet.

The treaty of Ifrane and the 1972 common declaration, he adds, also settled the border problems. Morocco gave up any claims over Tindouf. In so doing, Morocco made a major concession to Algeria to give a decisive contribution to the building of the Maghreb.

On the other hand, writes the former minister, Algeria, by the voice of its president, solemnly and publicly undertook to give Morocco unconditional aid in the realization of her territorial integrity.

"We are ready to take up the dialogue and go back to the 1972 accord; this is what the King pointed out in his conference. It now depends upon Algeria to show that the hands which are stretched are not in vain," concludes Mr Alaoui.

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PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON SAHARAN SITUATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 Aug 79 pp 1, 5 LD

[Interview with Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid by Amin Ma'luf in Rabat--date not given]

[Text] Some 10 days after the agreement signed in Algiers between Mauritania and the POLISARIO Front Morocco announced on 13 August the annexation of the Mauritanian part of the Sahara (Rio de Oro) to its territories. Has Morocco drawn level in its match with Algeria and will it be satisfied with this answer?

This question was the subject of an investigative report by AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Rabat as well as of an interview with Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid.

The prime minister's immediate reply to the question was: "Yes, the Moroccans are pleased with the restoration of this part of the Sahara. The people of Rio de Oro have always been proud of their Moroccan identity. For our part we demand the restoration of this area to us."

[Question] Why did you agree to give it to Mauritania in 1975?

[Answer] It was merely a settlement under special circumstances. Algeria had persuaded Mauritania to claim the Sahara and in order to restore a major part of the Sahara we accepted that part of it be under Mauritanian control.

[Question] But in the past you claimed Mauritania itself. Will this not lead some people to draw the conclusion that the next step will be against Nouakchott itself?

[Answer] No, never. We have made a final decision on this matter. It is true that in the past Mauritania was part of Morocco and that we laid claim to it in the early sixties. But we have been satisfied with Mauritania being an independent state managing its own affairs on its own soil. Now we have absolutely no ambitions there. All that we are seeking is to

establish better good-neighborly relations. The best evidence of this is the fact that we withdrew our forces from Mauritania a week ago, even before it asked us to do so.

[Question] Does this mean that Morocco is no longer claiming any territories?

[Answer] There are certain areas with which we must deal one day, such as Sebta (Ceuta), Melilla and other Spanish positions in the north. [answer ends]

We asked the Moroccan Prime Minister whether the areas Morocco will try to annex include Tindouf, which is the subject of a dispute with Algeria. He said: Why not?

He then added: There are political parties that demand Tindouf. In any case this is part of the whole problem.

[Question] Do you believe that the annexation of Rio de Oro to Morocco would create a more critical diplomatic and military situation?

[Answer] This should make us more careful and vigilant.

[Question] Do you believe that there is understanding abroad for the manner with which Rio de Oro was annexed to Morocco?

[Answer] Some people will not understand and criticize us. But in the final analysis we decide what we want on our territory. We have our own Moroccan and Islamic traditions.

[Question] Has the danger of a clash with Algeria increased?

[Answer] A new situation has now come about. We hope that our Algerian neighbors realize that all Moroccans are determined to fight for their land and that continued conflict will further increase their determination. The Algerians might then change their stand.

The Moroccan official was calm when talking about Algeria but he became agitated when he spoke about Libya. He said: "Libya is playing a role in destabilizing the area. It has been said that it supports the Basque and the Irish rebels. They are also supporting Touareg tribesmen in order to undermine the situation in Mali. They are also dreaming of controlling the whole Sahara, including the Algerian Sahara. The question is: In whose interest is Libya doing this? I am only asking a question."

[Question] Are there any political prisoners in Morocco?

[Answer] No, there is not a single person in Morocco in jail because of his political views. But there are laws. Anyone who violates these laws is punished. Freedom can only last if protected by the law.

[Question] How do you explain the assertion by Amnesty International that there are such prisoners?

[Answer] They are biased. They criticize countries that allow them to visit and investigate. Why do they not speak about political prisoners and human rights in other countries with which we are all familiar?

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ISTIQLAL PARTY COMMUNIQUE SCORES SPANISH STAND

Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 79 LD

[Text] The Istiqlal Party has issued the following communique:

The Executive Committee of the Istiqlal Party met last Wednesday to discuss item one on the agenda, the statement of Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja which constitutes a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Morocco and a repudiation of the resolutions of the United Nations and International Court of Justice and the Madrid tripartite agreement. It was made in complete disregard of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Morocco.

After referring to the party's desire to maintain friendship with Spain, the communique went on to say that it regarded Oreja's statement as being totally biased in favor of the enemies of the unity of Morocco and a reiteration of those colonial views which the Spaniards used to proclaim before decolonization. For that reason, the party rejects the statements on the regained Morocco Sahara and condemns any interference in Moroccan affairs.

The communique adds: At a time when Morocco is hoping that the Spanish Government would be forward looking in face of the new horizons opened by the Spanish people who [words indistinct] the world of the future and rid themselves of adherence to the colonization of the two Moroccan towns of Ceuta and Melilla, we find Oreja, in his new statement, maintaining the colonial concept and considering the affairs of the said towns as being the internal concern of Spain.

In conclusion the communique of the Istiqlal Party states that the party, while condemning the Spanish colonial attitude toward the two Moroccan towns and the Sahara question, calls on the Moroccan Government to take the necessary measures in various fields to check the Spanish defiance and to adopt the principle of dealing in like manner with the Spanish Government, in accordance with the international role which has been pursued by Morocco, namely: we do not befriend those who deny our right to independence and territorial integrity.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

AIRFORCE TRAINING--Three students from South Yemen graduated last Thursday from the air college in Addis Ababa after achieving the rank of pilot. These students are covered by a scholarship offered by the revolutionary government of Ethiopia to the Aden government. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 10 Aug 79 p 9]

CSO: 4802



## QATAR

### BRIEFS

OIL PRICE STRUCTURE--A Qatari newspaper said yesterday that Qatar is presently studying the possibility of pricing its oil with the pound Sterling, or a consortium of currencies instead of the American dollar, in order to make up for the dwindling returns on its oil due to the continual plummeting of the value of the American currency. The English language paper GULF TIMES said that the goal of this plan is to curb the runaway inflation stemming from the rise in the price of the pound Sterling, and the accompanying decline in the price of the dollar. It said that the rise of the price of the pound Sterling and the decline of the dollar led to the decline of the value of the Qatari riyal by 12 percent during the last 10 weeks. It mentioned that Qatar thus fears that the rise of the pound Sterling will lead to the inflation of particular imports. The value of the imports from Britain reached 721 million Qatari riyals (190 million dollars) last year. /Text/ /Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Jul 79 p 10/ 9418

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## SAUDI ARABIA

### BRIEFS

MISSILE PURCHASES--Thomson and Matra, manufacturers of the "Crotale" missile, will deliver to the local military authorities a number of low-altitude surface-to-air "Shahine" missiles (a version of the "Crotale" for the Arab countries): 24 firing batteries and 12 radar observation batteries. The total amount of the contract, including spare parts and technical assistance, is about 2 billion francs. This is one of the results of Yvon Bourges' recent trip to Saudi Arabia. So far, about 2,800 "Crotale" missiles of all types have been ordered from Thomson and Matra. [Text] [Paris AVIATION MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL in French 15-31 Aug 79 p 14]

CSO: 4800

'L'ACTION' SEES YOUNG'S DEPARTURE AS 'SERIOUS LOSS'

Tunis L'ACTION in French 17 Aug 79 p 9 LD

[Unattributed article: "Andrew Young Refuses to Apologize"]

[Text] Received with satisfaction by some and sadness by others, the resignation of Mr Andrew Young, distinguished diplomat and living symbol of the U.S. black minority since the tragic death of Martin Luther King whose aide he was, will now undoubtedly complicate U.S. foreign policy, many observers believe. As far as the domestic sphere is concerned, President Carter had practically no choice but to accept the resignation of his protege since he would otherwise have been accused of weakness and indecision--his principal defects in the eyes of public opinion.

In the foreign sphere, however, Andrew Young's departure will probably fail to convince the Israeli leaders that Washington will discontinue its efforts to engage in dialog with the PLO and persuade it to accept UN Resolution 242.

True, Andrew Young has fallen, but he has fallen victim to his attempts to initially conceal from the administration the importance of his contacts with the PLO rather than to any infringement of American policy on his part.

In any case, by leaving unbowed, Andrew Young has dissociated himself from his government's attitude toward the PLO, claiming that it is wrong and that it was determined at a time when it was generally believed that the PLO would not last.

Even though the military strength of the Palestinian organization has diminished, its political and economic influence has increased, "Andy" Young stated, saying aloud something which the State Department believes but does not mention. And in fact this is what worries Israel.

This is why President Carter has decided to bring forward by a few days special envoy Robert Strauss' visit to Cairo and Jerusalem to try to straighten things out. However, he will probably find it difficult to restore the kind of confidence which prevailed between the United States and Israel following the signing of the Camp David agreements and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Andrew Young's departure will also leave a great void as far as the Third World is concerned. Over a 30-month period the enfant terrible of U.S. diplomacy managed to establish special relations with many African governments, especially Nigeria. The revival of U.S. influence in Africa can largely be ascribed to him.

After some hesitation, many Third World leaders came to admire and like a black ambassador who was not afraid of stating aloud that the Cubans probably exercised a positive influence in Africa and that human rights were occasionally flouted also in the United States.

In particular, Andrew Young brought to the State Department a freshness of approach and occasionally controversial initiatives which shook an omnipotent and often hidebound bureaucracy. Even if he is replaced, as he probably will be, by another black--Don McHenry, his deputy at the United Nations--whose ability has generally been recognized, his departure will be a serious loss which it will be difficult to make good.

CSO: 4402

## TUNISIA

### BRIEFS

**PARTY CONGRESS PREPARATIONS**--The party political bureau met last night under the chairmanship of the secretary general, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, to make final preparations for the 10th Party Congress, which will open on the morning of 5 September. President Bourguiba will attend the opening. The political bureau announced that nominations for the Central Committee will be accepted from 24 until 31 August. [Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Aug 79 LD]

CSO: 4402



MOROCCO SHOWS REALISM TOWARD MAURITANIA IN SAHARAN PROBLEM

Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Aug 79 p 1

[Text] In asking to be received in Rabat a few days after having concluded a "definitive peace" with a POLISARIO, the head of the Mauritanian Government obviously could not expect to be received with smiles. Although to appearances displaying the apparent impassivity used in the art of swallowing a bitter pill, the Moroccans, in the words of their minister of foreign affairs, believe that their guest has "violated solemn commitments."

In order to give free rein to their bitterness and, perhaps, what would be more significant, to express their hope for the assumption of power in Nouakchott by a new team, the Moroccans let a dissident officer of the Mauritanian army, accused of "embezzlements" by his government, to appeal--from their capital on the same day as the visit--to his compatriots to revolt against the "surrender by irresponsible leaders who are traitors to their alliances."

Nevertheless, despite this serious incident, which provoked the precipitous departure of the Mauritanian delegation, the two sides agreed to preserve their cooperation, and Morocco took cognizance of the withdrawal of Mauritania from the conflict. It had even withdrawn its troops from the territory of its former ally before being asked to do so. For his part, the prime minister at Nouakchott said, and repeated, that his attitude did not imply any hostility toward the "Moroccan brothers." Too shrewd to resist an accomplished fact, Hassan II resigned himself to the inevitable without, however, limiting his own freedom of action with regard to the "defense by all our means of the rights and territorial integrity of the kingdom."

At the same time huge demonstrations of allegiance to the Cherifian sovereign, organized in the capital of the Tiris-El-Gharbia--a part of the Western Sahara returned to Mauritania in the inheritance which it henceforth repudiates--demonstrated the Moroccan will to prevail with the support of the populations and to exercise effectively a "right of preemption" the justification for which the Rabat press never ceases to explain.

By accommodating itself after a fashion to the Mauritanian defection and by even committing itself to remain on good terms with its ally of yesterday, Morocco displayed skill and realism. With good logic this attitude seems to indicate that Hassan II will not seek to provoke the "3-day war" with his Algerian neighbor which would permit him, according to the method preached not long ago by Mr Kissinger, to settle "hot" an apparently insoluble problem. Nevertheless, besides the ever-present risk of "slippage" of a punctual operation, one may wonder about the weight, in the final decision, of a Moroccan Army whose exasperation and desire to fight it out could only have been increased by the Mauritanian "cowardice."

On the diplomatic level, one of the theoretically conceivable solutions, which might have been the emergence of a sort of federal Mauritanian-Sahraoui state accepted by the POLISARIO as the best it could get, has now disappeared. The referendum urged by the OAU is very difficult to apply, and Rabat refuses "a priori" to organize one in a territory the "Moroccanness" of which is not negotiable in its eye.

Actually the effort of imagination which is required is not incumbent upon Hassan II alone. Algiers, where they are carefully avoiding any note of triumph, Paris and Washington, which have the means of making themselves heard in Rabat, and even the African chiefs of state, especially Mr Senghor and the Malian President Moussa Traore, who was just received at the Elysee Palace, have an important role to play in the solution of a crisis which will have to be concluded in compromise.

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WESTERN SAHARA

BRIEFS

DEFENSE MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE--The Saharan Defense Ministry has issued a statement stating that on 29 August vanguards of the Saharan resistance attacked the Moroccan forces in Semara and Southern Morocco killing 10 Moroccan soldiers and seriously wounding 15 others. They also destroyed five military vehicles and several military installations. [Summary] [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Sep 79 LD]

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